

WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center
Fairbanks, Alaska
February 21, 2017
9:04 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Fred Alexie
Shirley Clark
Ray Collins
Timothy Gervais
Don Honea (Telephonic)
Jenny Pelkola
Pollock Simon
Dennis Thomas
Darrel Vent

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 02/21/2017)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring
9 the meeting to order. I think we have all the Council
10 members that have arrived so far. We have Darrel Vent
11 and Don Honea that Ravn decided to cancel their flight
12 yesterday. They couldn't come up, so they're coming
13 this morning. My watch is 9:04. We hear people coming
14 onto the teleconference. Zach is coming into the room
15 also. We're looking for Ray Collins. He's in his
16 room. He's had some health issues. Did you find
17 anything out about Ray there, Zach?

18

19

MR. STEVENSON: The front desk is
checking on him just to make sure he's okay.

20

21

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. First off on
our agenda is the invocation. Is there a person here
that would like to do the invocation? Jenny Pelkola
will do the invocation. If you could stand for that.

25

26

(Invocation)

27

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. So
we'll call the meeting to order. We'll call roll.
Jenny, you got the roster?

31

32

MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. Shirley J. Clark.

33

34

MS. CLARK: Here.

35

36

MS. PELKOLA: Donald V. Honea, Jr.

37

38

MR. HONEA: Online.

39

40

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you online, Don?

41

42

43

MR. HONEA: Yes, I am. I don't know
how long I'll be online, but I'm listening in.

44

45

MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Pollock Simon, Sr.

46

47

MR. SIMON: Here.

48

49

MS. PELKOLA: Raymond L. Collins.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're looking for
2 Ray. He's in his room right now.
3

4
5 MS. PELKOLA: Jack L. Reakoff.
6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm here.
8

9 MS. PELKOLA: Darrel M. Vent, Sr.
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's traveling also.
12

13 MS. PELKOLA: Timothy P. Gervais.
14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Here.
16

17 MS. PELKOLA: Dennis R. Thomas, Sr.
18

19 MR. THOMAS: Here.
20

21 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny K. Pelkola. I'm
22 here. Fred W. Alexie.
23

24 MR. ALEXIE: Here.
25

26 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair, we have a
27 quorum.
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. So
30 the next agenda item is welcome and introduction of our
31 guests. So we'll start in the back of the room, back
32 on the left side and work around the room. Go ahead.
33

34 MR. HARRIS: Frank Harris, fish
35 biologist, Office of Subsistence Management.
36

37 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran, Deputy Manager
38 of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.
39

40 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,
41 Assistant Manager of Arctic Refuge.
42

43 MR. PELTOLA, JR.: Gene Peltola, Jr.,
44 Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence
45 Management.
46

47 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Council Members.
48 It's always good to see you guys. My name is Glenn
49 Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm a
50

1 fisheries biologist and subsistence branch chief.

2

3 MR. KEYSE: Matt Keyse, Subsistence
4 Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann, U.S.
7 Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Office.

8

9 MR. BUE: Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, Subsistence Fisheries In-Season Manager.

11

12 MR. HAVENER: Jeremy Havener, Refuge
13 Subsistence Coordinator, Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko
14 National Wildlife Refuge out of Galena.

15

16 MR. SPINDLER: Mike Spindler, Refuge
17 Manager, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

18

19 MR. LAMARR: Tim LaMarr, Field Manager
20 for the Central Yukon Field Office of the BLM.

21

22 MS. JULIANUS: Erin Julianus, wildlife
23 biologist for BLM Central Yukon Field Office.

24

25 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM. Just so you
26 guys are aware, I just went to the front desk. I've
27 been trying to get a hold of Ray Collins the past hour
28 and a half and I asked that they send somebody up to
29 his room to check on him since we haven't heard from
30 him.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that,
33 Tom.

34

35 MS. LITTLE: Suzanne Little with the
36 PEW Charitable Trust.

37

38 MR. JENKINS: Good morning. Wayne
39 Jenkins, Director of Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
40 Association.

41

42 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, wildlife
43 biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, do you want
46 to introduce yourself.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, yeah.

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: I'll come up to the mic.
4 I apologize for being late. I'm monitoring the Board
5 of Game and they're jumping around. Vince Mathews,
6 Subsistence Coordinator for Kanuti, Arctic and Yukon
7 Flats. I'll be in and out. It looks like proposals
8 for Unit 24 will come up this afternoon.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
11 And then those persons on the conference call. I hear
12 background noise coming off the phone, so if you're on
13 the call why don't you state your name and mute your
14 phone *6 I think it is. Go ahead those on the call.

15

16 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
17 My name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game, Fall Season Manager for
19 the Yukon area.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jeff. Next.

22

23 MS. INGLES: Good morning. This is
24 Palma Ingles with U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Anchorage.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Palma. Anybody
27 else?

28

29 MS. CARROLL: Good morning. This is
30 Holly Carroll, Summer Season Manager Yukon area for the
31 Yukon. I'm here in Anchorage.

32

33 MS. JALLEN: Good morning. This is
34 Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 here in Anchorage. The Summer Season Assistant Manager
36 for the Yukon River.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.
39 Anyone else.

40

41 MR. SHARP: Good morning, Jack. This
42 is Dan Sharp, Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dan, good morning.

45

46 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
47 Klein, also with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
48 Anchorage.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Jill.
2 Anybody else.

3
4 MR. DECOSSAS: Gary Decossas, the
5 Kuskokwim area fisheries biologist with the Office of
6 Subsistence Management here in Anchorage.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gary. That's it?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that was
13 all of the guests that are online. So we're going to
14 review and adopt the agenda. Because the Bureau of
15 Land Management has a Resource Management Plan
16 presentation and their staff availability precludes
17 that from occurring tomorrow when we would be in agency
18 reports, I would like to move that up to the front.
19 This Resource Management Plan highly affects resource
20 uses and the subsistence uses of this region.

21
22 Because Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
23 Association also has comments to present on that
24 Resource Management Plan, I would like to have the BLM
25 and YRDFA at that same time and I would like to move
26 that early in this agenda after our Council reports and
27 public and tribal comments for today.

28
29 I also would like to see the State
30 Board of Game proposals. The Board is meeting right
31 this minute over at Pike's. I was over there
32 yesterday. There was one proposal that I have concerns
33 about. Proposal 105, which addresses the Central
34 Arctic Caribou Herd and the Central Arctic Caribou Herd
35 inhabits the upper portion of this region in Unit 24.

36
37 So I'd like the Council to look at that
38 proposal. I had written comments to the Board. I
39 would like to see what the Council feels. We can
40 transmit our comments to the Board of Game. We've done
41 that previously when we've had meetings in conjunction
42 with one another.

43
44 Zach.

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 I received an email message on that subject regarding
48 conversation through the RAC on the State Board of Game
49 proposals and the correspondence came through the

50

1 Council Coordinator Division Chief, Carl Johnson, who
2 specified that any written materials in the form of a
3 letter with the Chair's signature on it is subject to
4 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of
5 Subsistence Management Correspondence Policy.
6

7 The current application of that policy
8 is to provide for the full leadership team review prior
9 to submission of that correspondence. In other words,
10 to avoid that policy would be for the Council's
11 comments not to be in written form. For example, the
12 Council could discuss and then pass its position over
13 to Staff, who could then relay that information to the
14 Board of Game orally. Or, theoretically, a Council
15 member could take the Council's position in the form of
16 talking points and deliver them orally to the Board of
17 Game.

18
19 So that's the requirements we're
20 required by law to follow.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for
25 that clarification from OSM. We will transmit those
26 with review of the Council on that proposal and any
27 other proposals that the Council would like to review,
28 Board of Game proposals. We'll transmit those
29 electronically to the Board Liaison, George Pappas, who
30 is sitting at the Board of Game meeting right now.

31
32 That has to be high on the list. That
33 will be right after this BLM RMP presentation. There's
34 public and tribal comments on number 9. YRDFA wanted
35 to comment on some issues that would affect tribal and
36 Native lands. There's a predator control sign-on
37 letter from Department of -- go ahead, Zach.

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 To clarify, this is not a predator control letter per
41 se, but rather simply a sign-on letter, so we'll
42 address that sign-on letter there under 9(b).

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are all the Council
47 Members on the marked-up copy that I'm referring to?
48 It's got red.

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: That's correct, they
2 are.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So review a letter
5 from Cora Andros of Kaltag. That's a tribal
6 consideration. A tentative presentation by Annette
7 Watson, but if she's not here, we could put her number
8 D with Marcy Okada. It's in regards to the National
9 Park Service.

10
11 So under new business, State Board of
12 Game proposal review. I would like to move that up
13 before the tribal comments because it's imperative to
14 get those -- the Board is moving rapidly through the
15 proposals. And then it gives -- it lays out the OSM
16 report regrading the draft MOU. It lays all these
17 agencies out at the bottom, so I agree with those
18 positions of those agency comments. BLM can come back
19 -- Erin can come back with her biological report at
20 another time. She's going to be here for two days and
21 not in conjunction with the RMP.

22
23 Any Council members have additional
24 comments or insertions. Tim, go ahead.

25
26 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Yeah, I don't know if it falls under new or old
28 business, but I would like the Council to discuss -- in
29 the meeting that we had in McGrath we learned some of
30 the effects of the new proposals that the Board of Fish
31 had approved in January of 2016 and relating to new
32 fisheries, expanded areas, specifying gear
33 specifications for the beach seine and set gillnet.

34
35 After reviewing the information
36 presented last meeting, I feel like this Council needs
37 to discuss the effects of those changes and make some
38 comments and recommendations to Commissioner Cotten and
39 to the Board of Fish on trying to understand and
40 quantify what the effects of these changes were going
41 forward. So I'd like to go through that as an agenda
42 item.

43
44 Specifically Proposals 118, 121, 122,
45 123, 128 and 125.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That could fall
48 under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Yukon River Preseason
49 Management Review. So a review of those various

50

1 effects could fall under that category. Would that be
2 fine with you?

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that's fine.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that will be (a)
7 under U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Any other Council
8 insertions into this agenda?

9

10 Zach.

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Did you want to address the item regarding caribou,
14 specifically the potential formation of a working
15 group?

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, that's right.
18 Thanks for reminding me. I feel there's a need for --
19 as Chair, I tried to get North Slope, Northwest Arctic,
20 Seward Pen and the WIRAC on a conference call to
21 discuss caribou before this meeting, but that didn't
22 happen. I still feel that these four regions, Western
23 Arctic, Teshekpuk and Central Arctic, three caribou
24 herds, have fallen to 50 percent or less of their
25 population that they were up to 10 years ago.

26

27 I feel that there's a need for
28 additional protections for cow caribou and seasons set
29 for protection of caribou at certain times of the year.
30 I feel that caribou could be harvested throughout the
31 whole year, but bulls really should only be harvested
32 from February 1 to October 1 and from October 1 to
33 February 1, when bulls are not good to eat or not the
34 best, cows should be harvested from October 1 to
35 February 1.

36

37 There's multiple reasons and I would
38 like to discuss that with the Council about why I feel
39 that there's need for additional protections.

40

41 Because we did not have that pre-
42 meeting consultation with the other Regional Councils,
43 we have to submit proposals, so I would like this
44 Council to submit a placeholder proposal basically
45 stating those seasons and possible additions if we so
46 choose because we are in call for proposals. I have
47 yet to find out when the end date is for the call for
48 Federal proposals.

49

50

1 Zach.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Just to clarify on that agenda item number 11, new
5 business (a) call for Federal wildlife proposals. Some
6 of you who I have spoken with in this past quarter are
7 aware that presently there has been a postponement, a
8 delay in the Federal Register call for wildlife
9 regulatory proposals.

10
11 That has happened before in the
12 previous administration when there was incoming new
13 Federal Staff at Department of Interior. There was a
14 delay. I don't know precisely how long the delay was.
15 I'd say approximately two months, possibly longer,
16 before the notice went out in the Federal Register.
17 That's the case now and we're seeing a delay again.

18
19 So, as Jack is alluding, it is still
20 possible to develop those proposals. However, the U.S.
21 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
22 Management, will not accept them until the call is
23 announced for proposals in the Federal Register, which
24 is the norm. So certainly feel free to work on them.

25
26 Lisa, do you have any comments on that?

27
28 MS. MAAS: Hi, Lisa Maas for the
29 record. Just agreeing with what Zach says, but I mean
30 the Council at this meeting should still formulate your
31 proposals, make a motion on them. The Council can
32 still submit them to OSM. We just can't accept them
33 from the public and we can't officially start sending
34 them out for review until that window closes. Still
35 formulate your proposals and act on them and we'll
36 submit them when we can.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this Council can
39 submit the proposals. I would like OSM to give the
40 public additional time to be able to submit proposals.
41 I feel like the public should have a time that they
42 know they can submit proposals. OSM is not accepting
43 them right now, but the public needs to have a
44 timeframe for acceptance.

45
46 MS. MAAS: Right. And they will
47 whenever we get the green light from the powers that be
48 in Washington to open the comment period -- or the
49 proposal window. There's like a minimum time period.

50

1 I want to say it's like 45 or 60 days. I don't know
2 exactly what it is, but you'll have a couple-month
3 window and it will be -- typically it ends the end of
4 March, so it will just be shifted whenever it opens.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's my
7 concern. I do feel that a caribou proposal that would
8 be promulgated by the Council and tentatively is
9 submitted should also have an agenda change
10 request for the State of Alaska to mirror the same
11 regulation. So the State of Alaska should have the
12 same regulations so the State and Federal lands people
13 don't have to try and figure out where they're at, the
14 season is the same. So that would be my intention with
15 going with that proposal.

16
17 Any other agenda insertions.

18
19 MR. BUE: Jack.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

22
23 MR. BUE: Good morning, Chair. Fred
24 Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service. Jill Klein is on the
25 phone and maybe she can confirm, but she had an agenda
26 item Comprehensive Salmon Plan. What we were trying to
27 coordinate a little bit are fisheries discussions. So
28 the agenda item Artificial Propagation under agency
29 report (b), that's kind of a sub-report of Jill's
30 presentation. So either to move Jill up between (a)
31 and (b) there or else move the Artificial Propagation
32 down after Jill's presentation would be my suggestion,
33 Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Let's just
36 move this Yukon River Comprehensive Plan up there with
37 the Yukon River Preseason Management and the Artificial
38 Propagation. Is that okay with the Council because we
39 want to get it all over at the same time.

40
41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds good.
44 Thanks, Fred.

45
46 MR. SPINDLER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
47 I see there's an agenda item called Landscape
48 Conservation Cooperatives. I just want clarification,
49 are you going to want something from Northwest Boreal
50

1 on that?

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

4

5

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

The intention for the Landscape Conservation

7

Cooperative presentation was to address the Coastal

8

Resilience Initiative that's underway in the

9

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LCC.

10

11

Thank you.

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Additions.

14

Any other additions from the public or guests rather.

15

16

(No comments)

17

18

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On the phone.

19

20

(No comments)

21

22

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none. The

23

Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the agenda as

24

amended.

25

26

MS. PELKOLA: I move.

27

28

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

29

30

MR. GERVAIS: Second.

31

32

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.

33

Further discussion on the agenda.

34

35

(No comments)

36

37

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Got a question? Are

38

you going to call a question? Is somebody going to

39

call a question?

40

41

MS. PELKOLA: Question.

42

43

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is

44

called on the agenda. Those in favor of adopting the

45

agenda as amended signify by saying aye.

46

47

IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same

50

1 sign.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The agenda is
7 adopted. The next is election of officers. Is this a
8 hard and fast? I would prefer to have all of the
9 Regional Council members present for this election.
10 This always comes up at the beginning of the meeting.
11 You know, if we have people that are late or something,
12 this gets to be a problem. I should have addressed
13 this during our agenda discussion here.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Can we hold on this until we get our
other Council Members here? Ray is MIA and Darrel and
Don. Are you still on the phone, Don? Don Honea.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's not even on the
phone. Go ahead, Zach.

MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Just for point of order, I know that we have just taken
an action to approve the modified agenda. Is there
someone here from leadership that could clarify per
Robert's Rules of Order whether we can modify the
agenda, which has been approved and adopted as
modified, to allow for the election of officers when
the entire body is present.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like comment
from the Council on how do you feel about making an
election without all the Council Members here.

Fred.

MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I prefer
myself, I've been on councils all my life, we never did
hold a vote without all council members being present.
I would like to see it go that direction.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can modify our
agenda. Just make a motion to modify the agenda. I
would entertain a motion to amend the agenda to move
this election of officers back toward the beginning of
the second day, wherever that may fall.

1 MR. ALEXIE: I would like to move the
2 election of officers for the second day of the agenda.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion to
5 that effect. Do we have a second.

6
7 MR. SIMON: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
10 Further discussion on that.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. SIMON: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
17 called. Those in favor of moving election of officers
18 to tomorrow at the beginning of the meeting signify by
19 saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The agenda is
24 modified. Review and approval of previous meeting
25 minutes on Page 7 of the meeting book.

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: I wanted to get a change
32 made here on Page 15 under Item 6 of the issues for the
33 Annual Report. It says request to minimize the effects
34 of salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea on Federally
35 qualified subsistence users of the Koyukuk and Yukon
36 River. The next sentence, The Council reiterated its
37 concern that the Aleutian Island pollock trawl fleet.
38 That needs to be defined differently. It's considered
39 the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands trawl fleet. If it's
40 left as only Aleutian Islands, that doesn't really
41 classify the fishery correctly.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Staff is
44 noting that correction. Thanks, Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: And then four sentences
47 down there's the same reference to Aleutian Island
48 pollock trawl fleet. It should be Bering Sea/Aleutian
49 Island trawl fleet or can be condensed to say BSAI

50

1 trawl fleet is recognized.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, that's the
4 proper designation. Thank you.

5

6 Fred.

7

8 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you. I'd like to
9 make a correction on Page 10. It's in regard to the
10 sonar being located in Nulato. I would like to add on
11 us people down in Kaltag and Yukon area we call it
12 Bishop Mountain but U.S. Fish and Wildlife they say
13 Bishop Rock.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You want to
16 call it -- be referred to as Bishop Mountain?

17

18 MR. ALEXIE: Yes, Bishop Mountain
19 rather than Nulato. You know my request from previous
20 meetings, Mr. Chair, that I always prefer saying Bishop
21 Mountain or Bishop Rock or whatever. I've been
22 addressing that issue for quite some years. I don't
23 want to mislead the public or anybody in saying that we
24 agreed to have it in Nulato. I don't want that
25 misinterpreted coming from the Council.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Duly noted by
30 the Staff. Zach is typing it in. Any other
31 corrections to the minutes.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

36

37 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair. I move to
38 adopt the agenda with the changes made.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Minutes.

41

42 MR. ALEXIE: Minutes made, yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Minutes as amended.
45 Do I have a second.

46

47 MR. SIMON: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.

50

1 Further discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. ALEXIE: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
8 called on the minutes as amended. Those in favor of
9 adoption signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Council
18 Member reports. We have a new Council Member, Shirley
19 Clark. Welcome to the Council, Shirley. So we'll
20 start with you. Give us a little background of where
21 you live and what different advisory committees and so
22 forth, your background. Then basically give an
23 overview of your identified subsistence-related issues,
24 like did people catch enough fish where you live or is
25 moose hunting bad. Various things like that. Members
26 give their report revolving around what effects their
27 local area and local life.

28

29 Go ahead.

30

31 MS. CLARK: Well, my name is Shirley
32 Clark. I'm from Grayling. I guess I'll give you the
33 official version not the background. I was on the
34 U.S./Canadian Committee as an advisor for about 13
35 years. I've been on YRDFA. And I'm the mayor of
36 Grayling. I know everything that's going on. I also
37 run the store and have a bed and breakfast. So I know
38 the area and the people very well. Right now the moose
39 population seems to be healthy, but there's a lot of
40 wolves out there. Too bad the Feds couldn't put a
41 bounty on them. I don't have a proposal for that
42 though or for bears.

43

44 I like filling out forms. In a former
45 life, I might have been a tax collector.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. CLARK: But when the proposals came

50

1 out for new members, I thought I'll fill it out. Next
2 thing you know Sally Jewell is appointing me as a
3 member. I'm going to keep my mouth shut until I find
4 out what's going on.

5
6 That's it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I mean if you've
9 got an issue to bring up.....

10
11 MS. CLARK: Oh, I will. I will.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see you're a good
14 speaker, so I'm glad to see that.

15
16 MS. CLARK: I hate talking. I never
17 talked when I was in Canada.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you're welcome
20 to talk here. We want to hear what you have to say.
21 And welcome to this Council.

22
23 MS. CLARK: Thank you. Thanks for
24 putting me on the spot first.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're new here. We
29 did that to Dennis last spring. Pollock.

30
31 MR. SIMON: I'm Pollock Simon, Sr. I
32 live in Allakaket, Upper Koyukuk River. We fish are
33 controlled last few years and I think it's one more
34 year maybe, but that seems to help. We have numbers of
35 moose before, but now these past couple years we see a
36 few more wolf track. During hunting season people get
37 more moose this past summer, so things are looking up
38 on the moose population.

39
40 I think they catch some wolves in
41 Henshaw River Valley, but usually we see moose around
42 town in the past few years, last two years there's no
43 moose running around, so they must have got most of
44 them or some of them anyway. But predator control
45 works, so people are happy with that.

46
47 But over 10 years now we haven't had
48 any caribou migrating through Allakaket, so that's a
49 concern. You know, after there's no moose meat then
50

1 you could get caribou, but there hasn't been any
2 caribou. There was some about 50 miles from Allakaket
3 last winter, last year, but not this year. It seems to
4 migrate more closely to the coast on the west since the
5 oil pipeline construction in '74 with the Haul Road
6 going north and south. That affects the caribou
7 migration.

8
9 Now the sport hunting and fishing up
10 the Haul Road, so there's hunting pressure there and
11 caribou kind of come down more on the west side.
12 That's where the caribou used to come into Koyukuk
13 River Valley, but no more. We're getting a lot of chum
14 salmon, but not much king salmon.

15
16 It's kind of hard times sometimes when
17 there's not enough meat and no king salmon. There's
18 some going upriver, but there's some restriction on
19 taking king salmon. Last year was a little bit
20 different. We could get a few. Koyukuk River is not
21 like the Yukon. The king salmon doesn't come up the
22 Koyukuk River in great numbers, so that's a problem.

23
24 Our elders like chum salmon. It's
25 leaner and not so rich, but most people want to eat
26 king salmon. That's our main fish diet for our people,
27 but there's restrictions. We can't take that many.
28 Whitefish come pretty close to eating king salmon, but,
29 like I said, king salmon is the main diet for our
30 people. So sometimes there's a little bit hardship for
31 getting food in Allakaket, but maybe things will
32 change.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock. I
37 want to remind the people on the call I'm hearing
38 background noise. Push *6 to mute your phone.

39
40 Go ahead, Tim.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 I'd like to extend a welcome to Shirley also. In past
44 meetings here we've discussed how much we appreciate
45 hearing Jenny's voice as a woman on this
46 Council and we wished we had more females involved with
47 it, so in answer to what this Council had discussed and
48 requested. So appreciate that.

49
50

1 Also, in a second way, I appreciate
2 having you on as Robert Walker just retired and we
3 really do have a lot of issues that come up in that
4 GASH area, so we're happy to have your knowledge and
5 expertise on what the issues are there. I don't travel
6 down that way very much except for if we have a Council
7 meeting there, so I'm happy to learn about what the
8 subsistence uses are. Of course, I'm extremely
9 interested to hear how the bison herd does.

10

11 So welcome and hope you have a fun time
12 and longevity with this Council.

13

14 In other issues, people I speak with
15 are really happy to have king salmon put away this
16 winter. That hasn't been the case in recent prior
17 years. The king salmon represents the highest quality
18 subsistence resource for our region, so we're happy to
19 have a limited access to it at this time. I'd like to
20 thank the managers and Staff, Council Members and all
21 the subsistence users that have worked really hard to
22 get the king salmon run on the rebound for Kuskokwim
23 and Yukon Rivers. It's a really big deal. It goes
24 beyond just food and calories. It's meeting cultural
25 needs. It's a customary thing to have with us in our
26 daily lives.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me for a
29 minute. A little break in the discussion here. Ray
30 Collins is coming in. He's having some health
31 problems. He's a little weak. So we're glad to have
32 you here at the meeting, Ray. I'll move your mic over
33 here.

34

35 So we've adopted the agenda. We've
36 foregone the election of officers until tomorrow. So
37 we're going through our Council reports. We have a new
38 member Shirley Clark here from Grayling.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I know Shirley.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Tim is in the
43 middle of his report. Continue, Tim.

44

45 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
46 another aspect that's significant about being able to
47 have access to the king salmon resource is the cost of
48 freight and mail is going up real dramatically. It's
49 hard to afford to ship food in as a replacement for the

50

1 king salmon. Whatever is shipped in can never match in
2 quality or substance what the fish brings with it.

3
4 Another aspect of having access to the
5 king salmon resources and all the people that are
6 harvesting and processing it really does a nice job of
7 creating a sense of self-worth by knowing that families
8 are able to fish and provide for themselves and feed
9 themselves and their children high-quality nutrition.
10 It's nice to be able to get a food source from a
11 natural avenue instead of having it come off the
12 airplane or be something that's purchased with food
13 stamps.

14
15 So that increase in self-worth it just
16 kind of creates a general sense of well-being and I
17 think it's real useful if we have productive
18 subsistence activities occurring in our communities it
19 also just gives good role models for our youth to
20 follow, it reduces domestic abuse and tends to have a
21 reduction in our suicide rate.

22
23 So what's going on here, even though it
24 gets difficult to try to blend management and
25 bureaucracy and rulemaking with a general subsistence
26 activity, I'm happy that people are doing what they are
27 to -- there has to be some kind of rules and
28 regulations that allow equal access to the resources.
29 Although there's different ways people want it to
30 happen, what's being done here is important for being
31 able to maintain the fabric of our communities.

32
33 Another item. People in our area are
34 interested in talking about either moving the Nowitna
35 check station or adding a secondary check station out
36 into the mainstem of the Yukon River so that hunters
37 will have to check their moose through that are fishing
38 on the main corridor. Like we have the Koyukuk check
39 station, Nowitna check station, but there's a lot of
40 hunting going on on the mainstem of the Yukon too.
41 There's only cursory checks by the troopers and stuff.

42
43 There's some local interest in putting
44 -- either moving the Nowitna check station out on the
45 mainstem or putting a third check station in place
46 somewhere between the mouth of the Nowitna and Nenana
47 or the Yukon River Bridge.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That can be
50

1 discussed with Koyukuk/Nowitna staff when they're up
2 for presentation. Go ahead, Tim.

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Another item which
5 we'll cover in our amended agenda is discussing the
6 catch and bycatch and catch
7 and release effects of the new Board of Fisheries
8 proposals that came into play in 2016. I'm not going
9 to go into that as we'll cover it later.

10
11 And then also we're going to get some
12 presentation from Fish and Game and perhaps the Federal
13 managers about this artificial propagation of king
14 salmon. I'm certainly not a specialist in it, but I'm
15 seeing a lot of things failing throughout the world in
16 regard to artificial rearing of salmon stocks.

17
18 Like right now we've had a lot of algae
19 blooms down in Chile, which a big farmed salmon
20 propagation place. And in Norway and Scotland, which
21 are some of the leading farmed salmon production areas
22 of the world, they're having a lot of trouble with sea
23 lice.

24
25 At first the sea lice was mainly a
26 problem for the wild stocks as the smolts were
27 outmigrating and the sea lice were jumping onto the
28 smolts in a quantity that the juvenile smolts couldn't
29 handle, so that had detrimental effects on the wild
30 stocks, but now the sea lice are getting to be so
31 rampant that it's actually affecting the health of the
32 farmed salmon they're raising in the pen.

33
34 See these effects have taken a long
35 time to come out. Like the farmed salmon, as far as I
36 know, has been going on since at least the '80s, so
37 here it is 30 years later that they're starting to see
38 through viruses their mutation and whatnot and
39 pollution of these rearing sites over decades and
40 decades.

41
42 Sometimes there's management changes or
43 technology changes or great ideas are going to save a
44 species or feed the world. Most of the time you find
45 out years or decades later that they don't work out
46 because of some issue. It's really hard for man with
47 technology to create better systems than nature.

48
49 I'm interested to hear what the reports
50

1 say, but I know that the king salmon hatchery programs
2 on the Columbia River have been not particularly
3 successful. I hope that we can just realize that it's
4 probably easier and more sustainable in the long run if
5 we can correctly manage our wild stocks and conduct our
6 fisheries practices in a manner that's sustainable
7 that's going to be the most productive and most
8 economical subsistence economies going forward.

9

10 That's all I have for now.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Those are
13 really important points about chinook salmon
14 participation and the community effects. Appreciate
15 those.

16

17 Dennis.

18

19 MR. THOMAS: From the middle of the
20 Kuskokwim and Crooked Creek, I'll just go by what hits
21 us locally. Now this last year we finally had a
22 halfway decent run of king salmon where we could make
23 use of them. The year before it seemed like it was
24 almost nothing. Last year we did quite a bit better.

25

26 The chum have almost been about the
27 same. We had a very good red run. The silver run has
28 always been good in our area, but sometimes the silvers
29 don't smoke up as well as the king does since the king
30 is the head of it all. It is getting better, so
31 whatever we're doing and wherever we're doing it, let's
32 just tighten it up a little bit so that it gives us
33 more freedom or, if anything, more fish to eat.

34

35 The same thing with the moose
36 population up there. It is getting better. For a few
37 years there -- I remember one year out of the whole
38 village there were three moose shot. That's a whole
39 village of 120 people. That's not really a heck of a
40 lot. Now this last year it was probably around 17 or
41 18 out of the village. There was an awful lot more
42 moose taken.

43

44 Now a lot of that has to do with the
45 price of gas. Years ago we had everybody, it seemed
46 like, coming from downriver. Geez, they come Nelson
47 Island all the way up there to go moose and caribou
48 hunting and they were getting them. There was a lot of
49 moose there.

50

1 One year this man went up, he had three
2 of his boys with him, and he came back with two moose,
3 11 caribou and I think he had a black bear piled on top
4 of it also, and he was really happy. But now it would
5 not get -- before it stopped there at Crooked Creek.
6 We would get anywhere from 50 to 100 people a day going
7 up that river hunting. Not every day, but a big rush
8 and then it slacks down and you've got these people
9 going out.

10
11 That's when gas was \$1, \$2 a gallon at
12 the most. Now you're looking \$7, \$8 a gallon. So 100
13 gallons of gas, that's a chunk of money these people
14 have going out. And it's just almost impossible to
15 afford this. You'd have to be making a couple hundred
16 thousand dollars a year to hunt like they used to.

17
18 So different factors that come in to
19 this that make it, but again it is getting better. The
20 only problem we have upriver right now is caribou.
21 We're getting no caribou at all. They used to go right
22 through the village. I'd shoot them off my front
23 porch. We had them crossing the river, we had the
24 wolves chasing them around because we had caribou
25 everywhere. Now we've got nothing but -- I suppose
26 this could be part of their migration pattern. They
27 move off, they move south for the food, whatever it is.
28 I'm not sure. I'm not a scientist. All I know is when
29 I sit there in the village.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Dennis.

32
33 MR. THOMAS: Yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Mulchatna
36 Caribou Herd fell from 200,000 to 28,000.

37
38 MR. THOMAS: I can believe it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what the
41 problem is. We want to rebuild that herd.

42
43 MR. THOMAS: Well a lot of that
44 building that herd is going to have to come from
45 restricting access to it. By this I mean the people
46 flying in with -- just like up the Holitna years ago.
47 Oh, we've got to do something, we've got to do
48 something. Oh, it's terrible, terrible up here. Guys
49 are flying out of Anchorage, popping their whatever it
50

1 is and then going back home.
2 We've got to change that. So what do they do? They
3 enforce a 40-horsepower limit on boat. Now what the
4 hell does this do. To me, I sit here and I think about
5 it. This is not a good idea. I don't know whether it
6 did anything.

7
8 Okay, where does this come from. Fish
9 and Game. Okay, you talk about predator control up at
10 Sleetmute the last two years. They're shooting 85 to
11 90 bear from helicopters for God's sake. Now we have
12 people in the state, especially a Super Cub pilot, they
13 love going out and shooting those wolves and doing this
14 kind of stuff from a plane. It's a kick in the butt.
15 Ever try it? I mean it's fun. It really is. This
16 would open it up to this for God's sake.

17
18 Okay, then we get other people involved
19 in it that say, oh, you can't land on our property
20 because of liability. Liability my butt. The guy
21 dumps his plane, it's his fault. For every wolf shot
22 there's probably, what, five Super Cubs crashed out
23 there somewhere, you know. Let the men take their
24 chance on doing this kind of thing if this is what they
25 want to do as long as it's in the law. Now how many
26 guides.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Dennis. I was at
29 the Board of Game meeting yesterday and they discussed
30 this land and shoot issue. There's a State statute
31 that precludes taking wolves same-day airborne unless
32 it's an intensive management area. So there's
33 restrictions on what the Board of Game can do. I just
34 wanted to supplement what you're discussing. You can't
35 just throw it wide open without specific.....

36
37 MR. THOMAS: I'm just throwing it out
38 there, you know. Whether they can do anything about it
39 again who knows, but again they've got to start
40 somewhere. Right now it's coming our way. Whatever
41 they're doing it's working well. I know the people of
42 Crooked Creek are pretty happy about what we got last
43 year compared to what we have been getting.

44
45 About forty-some years ago they had
46 posted that 200-mile limit on outside people fishing.
47 The year before we might get a couple king salmon every
48 drift. The year they imposed that we were getting 20
49 king salmon a drift. You know, a couple, three days we
50

1 had our fish done for the year because I have a family,
2 all three children.

3
4 This is what we're after, you know,
5 instead of dribble, dribble, dribble, you've got to
6 keep that smoke going for six weeks approximately. A
7 month to six weeks. Why stretch that out to seven or
8 eight weeks because you're getting your fish in that
9 manner. You know, again, it seems the people that live
10 there we should be able to have a little lead on other
11 people, whatever you want to call it, you know. I know
12 that's against what the State says.

13
14 Anyway, the Crooked Creek we're fairly
15 happy with the way things are going. As far as a
16 proposal to change things, it's going to have to be
17 people that are smarter than I am to come up with some
18 of these ideas. Come up with an idea and we can pick
19 them apart and whatnot. There's some people can think
20 of what to do and let's get these people involved with
21 this. The ones like a statesman or somebody like this,
22 you know, and see what we could come up with.

23
24 That's enough for me. Thanks, Jack.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's good to hear
27 your perspective that the moose are doing better. You
28 know, that Central Kuskokwim the bull/cow ratio dropped
29 to six to eight bulls per 100 cows. That's when they
30 had big time -- that's when they went on all those
31 restrictions. Full on closures near where you live.
32 Downriver, down by Aniak, they were on a drawing permit
33 and Tier II hunts.

34
35 Maintaining the health of the
36 populations is imperative and under a mandate by ANILCA
37 to maintain healthy populations of fish and wildlife so
38 it doesn't put rural people in hardship. That's why
39 I'm a stickler about maintaining healthy populations of
40 moose and caribou and various animals that people rely
41 on because once you get those populations all screwed
42 up out of biological balances -- and you can lay that
43 on the Department of Fish and Game's shoulders because
44 they allowed those populations to go really low.

45
46 They lose their breeding component.
47 It's called reproductive failure. The birds and the
48 bees, girls and boys and stuff like that. It's like
49 come on now. This is just basic science here. So
50

1 that's why I'm asking Lisa back here what's the
2 bull/cow ratio on Mulchatna. I want to have that at
3 this meeting at some point.

4
5 MR. THOMAS: One other comment here,
6 Jack. Now these people from the State they really
7 haven't learned. Now 50 years or so ago when I lived
8 in Fairbanks I talked to a Fish and Game guy just right
9 after I came up here. Down around Delta there was 100
10 cows to every bull. Now how in the hell are you going
11 to do anything about this or how are you going to make
12 anything -- excuse the language.

13
14 Again, somewhere along the line these
15 people are going to have to change their thinking.
16 They're educated, they've been to school, they know all
17 this stuff, which I don't. But, again, there's got to
18 be a way of keeping this under control and keeping
19 things normal.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's through
24 regulation. If it's getting out of control, it has to
25 be regulated.

26
27 Fred.

28
29 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me, excuse
32 me. Ray's behind me here, so I missed him. Go ahead,
33 Ray.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Well, I think the
36 Department got it right around McGrath. We had that
37 moose management area and we closed it to all hunting
38 for a period of time. Then finally we were allowed to
39 come in with predator control. On the comment on the
40 land and shoot, because of not wanting the controversy
41 -- well, first of all they tagged bear and took them
42 away.

43
44 They found out that bears were taking
45 about 60 percent of the calves. There were a few black
46 bears and there were a few grizzly in the area too that
47 were very successful. We finally got approval of that
48 and we allowed local pilots, as you mentioned, to go
49 out, so they avoided that controversy.

50

1 There are people that are willing to
2 get a permit from the Department and go out and risk
3 their plane or whatever and catch wolves. Of course
4 the wolves are hunting year round. So we took care of
5 the black bear by flying them away for a year or two to
6 avoid controversy. They took 90 bears within 20 miles
7 of McGrath. So black bears were a significant factor
8 in predation.

9
10 But the wolves are out there hunting
11 year around. Depending on snow conditions, they can be
12 very effective. If we get deep snow, then the wolves
13 have the advantage. But we've turned that population
14 around so that most of the harvest now is young bulls
15 and their sisters are out there breeding. So I would
16 count that as a successful program.

17
18 The other thing we've had is king
19 salmon rebuilding. For years I advocated that we
20 should be producing a lot more kings in the upper
21 river. By the time they got up there very few kings
22 survived. Well, we got a buy-in by the people
23 downriver and for a number of years they closed
24 entirely the king salmon season until allowed for a
25 certain escapement through the Bethel hatchery. I hope
26 they can maintain that.

27
28 Just for example, Salmon River, they
29 put a weir in there a few years ago and they've been
30 flying it every year, but the numbers are just over a
31 thousand on those efforts. Well, the last two years
32 they've jumped to over 6,000. So the Salmon River is a
33 big producer of kings.

34
35 I have stories from Miska Deaphon, one
36 of the elders in Nikolai, said that the salmon arrived
37 at the Little Tonzona above Nikolai before they ever
38 arrived at Salmon River. We experienced that in
39 McGrath. They catch king salmon up at Big River before
40 they ever catch them at McGrath because of snags and so
41 on. Those fish that are heading for the headwaters,
42 they truck right by. They don't pause. They have an
43 objective to reach the headwaters if we allow them to
44 reach the headwaters.

45
46 If we can maintain that for a few
47 years, I think we'll -- that's based on poor returns,
48 the 6,000. So if we can keep that up for a few years
49 with the cooperation of the people downriver, we should
50

1 see a big jump in the population. We have seen a
2 turnaround in the mid river as well. So I hope part of
3 our effort will be to encourage the State to maintain
4 that.

5
6 It's kind of interesting at Bethel.
7 Subsistence hunters are not dumb and they figured out
8 how to catch by hanging nets and so on. They can catch
9 king salmon in a certain amount with gear, the way they
10 hang the gear and so on. So they're still getting some
11 kings down there, but it's not impacting the runs as
12 much s it was before we had the closures.

13
14 We also experienced the drop off --
15 actually the moose moratorium down in the lower river
16 has built that population up around Bethel and it's
17 hunttable now just like the Kuskokwim. So those efforts
18 on the part of the Department were successful as well.
19 There's no incentive for coming clear up to the
20 headwaters if you can get moose closer to home. So we
21 need to maintain the effort to build that herd.

22
23 That's my comments, I think.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, those are real
26 good comments. It's graphic on the Kuskokwim and the
27 Yukon with implementation of first pulse and second
28 pulse protections. The upper drainages will actually
29 have huge escapements that have not been seen for
30 decades because every wants the fattest king that goes
31 to the upper drainage. So they're wiping out the goose
32 that laid the golden egg. Canada, the Koyukuk.

33
34 I saw the same thing. I live in the
35 Upper Koyukuk in shallow water where the kings spawn.
36 There was way more kings showing up with those pulse
37 protections. And Benedict Jones that used to be on
38 this Council used to say over and over and over when
39 they have a lot of subsistence in a first quarter point
40 opening, quarter of the way through the chinook salmon
41 commercial harvest for chinook salmon in the Lower
42 Yukon River, it wipes the Koyukuk out. Yeah, it did.
43 He was exactly right.

44
45 Quarter point openings annihilated the
46 Koyukuk drainage. That's why the Koyukuk has been
47 staggering under overharvest. First pulse protections
48 has allowed the chinook to return to the upper
49 drainage. It's the same thing on the Kuskokwim River.

50

1 There's huge productivities of these upper drainages
2 that have been not realized for now decades because of
3 unknown or neglected management principles.

4
5 Fred.

6
7 MR. ALEXIE: Good morning. My name is
8 Fred Alexie from the village of Kaltag, born and
9 raised in Kaltag. Kaltag's Native name is Ggaal Doh.
10 What that means is where the king salmon swim going
11 upriver. All my life I have fished the Yukon mostly
12 by nets. We don't do king salmon in fishwheels. The
13 king salmon do not run on the south side of the Yukon.
14 They run on the north side. King salmon going upriver
15 toward Canada. So we don't get the good fish on the
16 south side of the river, king salmon, chinook.

17
18 So all my life I started out years ago
19 -- my grandparents, they started using dipnet years
20 ago. That wasn't too effective, so they put two
21 homemade canoes together side by side, plumped their
22 nets in and drift with that net. But then an accident
23 happened years ago. In our language we say hutlaane.
24 It puts bad luck. So the people quit drifting for
25 kings because of that bad luck thing.

26
27 Over the last few years we've -- I
28 guess we got braver, so we started going out there and
29 started fishing with boats. Now we've got, what, 150
30 horse, 115 horse and 300-foot net or 150-foot net.
31 300-foot net is not allowed down in Kaltag. There's a
32 few of my nephews that got it and I told them, hey, I
33 don't want to see you go out there with that net.

34
35 I'm very protective because over the
36 last two years -- everybody in the past year, the
37 village, family, the families in Kaltag got their
38 family quota of kings. When they get their family
39 quota of kings, they totally quit. They don't fish no
40 more. The rest is up in the smokehouse drying. It
41 takes a while to dry that fish to our perfection. So
42 it's pretty well taken care of. It's moved near every
43 day. Right, Jenny? Nearly every day that king salmon
44 is moved here and there or upriver or lower -- not
45 lower, but upper. Every fish is moved a lot of times
46 before it finally gets in the freezer, dried, well
47 taken care of.

48
49 So when we talk about king salmon, boy,
50

1 you know what really burns me up is the high seas
2 fishers, the trawler fishers. What are they doing.
3 They are disrupting the feeding grounds for those
4 little smolts going down to the ocean. The feeding
5 grounds. The guy talked about another thing that's
6 hurting our little smolts down there. But if you go
7 hungry, you're going to starve, right? You're going to
8 lose weight, right?

9
10 Same way as the fish. They're not
11 going to be healthy enough to return back to the Yukon
12 where they're intended to go. They'll make it partway,
13 but they're not going to make it all the way because of
14 poor health and that's lack of food. The trawlers are
15 spoiling the feeding grounds for all our fish going up
16 the Yukon and overharvesting.

17
18 I'd like to say along the Yukon, hey, I
19 know the village of Kaltag goes by their family quota.
20 I know it real good and upriver, Koyukuk, Galena,
21 Nulato, Grayling. We all go by our family quota,
22 whatever we got to get for our families. We all know
23 what our families need for the rest of the year.

24
25 Okay, enough of that one. I called
26 Fish and Game. I wanted to get a survey done. I
27 wanted to ask them about this past spring survey. Fish
28 and Game told me that a survey was not done due to lack
29 of snow and no numbers, but in real hunting a lot of
30 our people in Kaltag were getting all the little spike
31 bulls. The big breeders never came off the mountains,
32 which I'm really happy for. We got all the little
33 ones, but the breeders came down late because of the
34 climate change, warm weather. It affected them. I'd
35 say 62 inch or better a few were gotten. None over
36 that. Hardly any over that that I know of.

37
38 The predators. My gosh, right now down
39 in Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena, Grayling, the
40 wolves are having a heyday with the moose. I am an
41 avid outdoorsman. I go out every day, whether walking
42 on snowshoes, snowmachining, doing whatever, and I see
43 moose kills. You don't have to go there. All you got
44 to do is look in the sky and you see crows flying
45 around, ravens. Why are the ravens grouped up?
46 Because there's a moose kill back there. They were
47 abundant. The wolves are driving the moose to town and
48 wolves are running in packs of better than six per
49 pack.

50

1 Down around my dad's trapline, mine
2 now, it's 50 miles downriver from Kaltag. Up to about
3 10 years ago guess how many wolves to a pack.
4

5 MS. CLARK: Three.
6

7 MR. GERVAIS: Six.
8

9 MR. ALEXIE: Twenty in a pack coming
10 out of Kaltag from below Kaltag. Fifty miles downriver
11 from Kaltag. Me and my dad we knew the migration
12 pattern of those wolves. We see them across from our
13 camp. Two weeks later behind the camp, which is still
14 our trapping area, exactly two weeks they'll be behind
15 the camp. Another two weeks they'll be back on the
16 Yukon again. Just that complete circle and the same
17 pack.
18

19 Bears. We have lost a lot of our
20 elders in all of our villages and our elders were the
21 ones who were avid bear meat eaters. My kids right
22 now, I bring bear, eww, eww, what's that, you know.
23 They're not going to eat it because they didn't --
24 moose meat is different. They notice the difference.
25 But bear meat they don't eat it and our elders are
26 gone, so that's what happens there. Bears are becoming
27 very abundant.
28

29 We've got, which I'm really happy for
30 and I know it's a controversial issue, is hunters; bear
31 hunters, wolf hunters. It's a controversial issue, but
32 on the other hand too it is keeping the levels of moose
33 healthy. I'm assuming that a lot of the villages are
34 against hunters coming into the villages. I am, but by
35 the same token too they're going after bears. You
36 heard Ray saying 60 percent of the calves are killed by
37 bears.
38

39 I got a letter one time from the State
40 of Alaska Fish and Game. Thirty-five percent is taken
41 by wolves of the calves. If we can control the bear
42 and the wolves, we'll have an abundance of good healthy
43 stock of moose in our areas, but we've got to keep them
44 controlled.
45

46 That's the end of my presentation.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for all that
2 information, Fred. That's really good stuff.
3 Appreciate that.

4
5 Jenny.

6
7 MS. PELKOLA: First of all I'd like to
8 welcome Shirley. Since I've been on this board I've
9 been harping the Council about having another woman on
10 here, so I'm glad that you applied. Welcome to the
11 board.

12
13 I'm Jenny Pelkola and I'm from Galena.
14 I'm also the first chief of Galena. I look at this
15 roster here and it looks like I've been on the board
16 since 2006 and it seems like I'm still
17 learning a lot from these guys. We have some smart
18 people on this board. Jack, Ray, have been on here
19 since I've been here and Pollock. I think these are
20 the people that started the Western Interior board.
21 You guys have so much knowledge that I'm learning a lot
22 from you.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 As you know, I spend most of my summers
27 on Bishop Mountain, Bishop Rock. That's where I fish.
28 Over the last five years though we've lost most of our
29 eddy due to climate change. Our bank is eroding. So
30 now we're sort of searching for areas to set our nets.
31 I just finally learned how to seine this summer. I
32 never really believed in it because in listening to
33 late the
34 Sidney Huntington he always used to say that's going to
35 kill off the fish. He said that's not fishing. He
36 said fishing is when you fish with nets.

37
38 So I always listen to him and finally
39 last summer I had to go out and learn how to fish and I
40 had a lot of fun. I think I just enjoyed going out
41 and being with my younger nieces and my brother and I.
42 He doesn't really know how to fish like that either
43 because we were taught from a young age to have setnets
44 and that's what we did.

45
46 We have to share our fish in camp. We
47 have seven families in our camp there and we go out and
48 get our fish. We have one smokehouse but we all share
49 it. So at the end of the season -- my brother is the
50

1 one that does the sharing. He just grabs and this goes
2 to you and this goes to you. So we just get whatever.
3 So we end up with just enough for our families. Maybe
4 a little extra for some elders.

5
6 We have an elder's home in Galena and
7 they like to eat their dried fish. So every so often I
8 bring a bag over and share it with them and they just
9 love that because there's no way for them to get their
10 fish. I bring fish eggs over to them, cooked fish
11 eggs, and just something that -- I'm not the only one
12 that does that, but other people in the community do
13 that. People from Nulato send fish and I'm sure other
14 areas send meat and everything. So in that way I still
15 have my fish that I can have for my family and then
16 share with others.

17
18 The moose season I don't know if I
19 reported. It seems like I did. I didn't have to work.
20 My husband and I we helped the family clean the moose,
21 I guess. We didn't kill any this year, but it was more
22 work for us helping other people because we had to -- I
23 mean it seems like, you know, we kill ours, we got ours
24 done and we're going, but we're helping everybody else
25 and it just tired us out. He said next year we're
26 going to get our own moose.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Anyway, it was fun
31 because I got to work with the family. We still have
32 an issue of wanton waste in our area that people report
33 is still a concern. I think Tim brought up about
34 having another check station on the upper river. I
35 think a lot of moose are dumped in the river right
36 after the check station in Koyukuk River because when I
37 see the boats go by -- I'm at Bishop Mountain, so I can
38 see everybody and a lot of the boats you see horns
39 sticking out, but you don't see any moose.

40
41 +I think if they were mandated to check
42 in to another station somewhere, I think they'd hang on
43 to their meat a little longer and maybe give some of it
44 away to people that really need it. I think that's a
45 good idea to have a third camp somewhere.

46
47 With that I'd just like to -- I wish
48 Darrel was here and Don because when we don't have a
49 full board it seems like we're missing part of our
50

1 body. Hopefully they show up later.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks a lot, Jenny.

6

Tim, go ahead.

7

8

MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. May I add a quick item that I left out of my report by mistake?

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

12

13

MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So at our meeting in McGrath I had talked about some of the trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska getting shut down in the early part of 2016 because they had reached their chinook bycatch cap and I indicated that it probably resulted in millions of dollars of foregone revenue for the harvesters and for the processors. So there's going to be some backlash or rebound to that because from their perspective that's not acceptable to be shut down like that.

23

24

So what these trawls groups did is they came back to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council with a plan that would allow them to change their fishing style and they felt that it would allow them to fish more selectively. It has to do with catch shares, but that's not really my point here. My point is that the industry made a big effort and put in a big proposal to the North Pacific Council. They talked about it in the December meeting and it got tabled because it's highly controversial.

34

35

As a result of that being tabled, industry groups are going to try to come back with some other kind of provision or regulatory change. We, as Subsistence Councils, need to be aware of what's going on with that and, therefore, I'd like to -- if it's within our purpose or authority, ask the North Pacific Council to send a representative to one of our meetings next year to give us an update on how the industry is reacting to these bycatch caps and what's the current update on the chinook bycatch. How they're handling it through regulations and how their concerned parties are interacting with the North Pacific Council on it.

47

48

It's an important issue and I just feel like we've got to stay current with it and we need to

50

1 keep the information going out so that we can make our
2 point that subsistence is important and based on
3 national standards that we do have a right to be able
4 to harvest the king salmon and not have them all be
5 taken as prohibited species bycatch.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. I agree
8 with you that that's an appropriate presentation for
9 our fall meeting with OSM.

10
11 MR. ALEXIE: Can I ask a question?

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.

14
15 MR. ALEXIE: You know, I don't
16 understand that. The only thing I can see is they're
17 going to change that bycatch number
18 and I don't want to see them changing the bycatch
19 number because that bycatch number has been negotiated
20 among all the fishing groups. So if they come out and
21 start talking about that bycatch number, we've got to
22 be represented at that thing because it affects us
23 subsistence users. I think that bycatch number has
24 been hashed out over the years and I do not want to see
25 that number come down or go up. I don't want to see it
26 go up.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

29
30 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 just wanted to comment because what Fred is saying is
32 really teasing out the most critical point that I
33 believe is one of the main problems with the whole
34 bycatch issue. These Federal fisheries that are
35 occurring from three to two hundred miles, they're
36 managed by Secretary of Commerce. What we're doing as
37 subsistence users we're managed by the Secretary of
38 Interior and they have different statute, different
39 regulation and there's not a direct link between one
40 honoring what the other one is saying.

41
42 So everything that's going on with
43 North Pacific Council is not -- their national
44 standards aren't directly tied to ANILCA and so we need
45 to -- I would like this Council to understand the
46 differences, but I would also like the Department of
47 Commerce and Department of Interior to be able to
48 realize there's two environments, two ecosystems that
49 are combining due to the anadromous nature of the
50

1 salmon and there needs to be
2 an allowance for that situation.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I am heartened by
5 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council tabling the
6 proposal by the groups, although Fred is right, you're
7 right, we do need to be kept abreast of what's actually
8 going on with them. We want them to be transparent.

9
10 This Council needs to be apprised.
11 These Councils that have been affected by these salmon
12 declines from bycatch in the south and Alaska Peninsula
13 and the Gulf and Bering Sea have had headway in getting
14 these caps installed. So we want to maintain a hard
15 front on that.

16
17 I think the North Pacific Fisheries
18 Management Council doesn't relish the backlash of
19 increasing those caps with all the various user groups
20 that have worked towards those caps. By them tabling,
21 I feel that they probably are reluctant to increase
22 those caps at this time.

23
24 The Council changes, they get new
25 membership, so we need to maintain that position. So I
26 think at our fall meeting we need to have an update
27 from OSM on what has been occurring with the North
28 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and we may have to
29 take actions at that time.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One more short
34 comment.

35
36 MR. ALEXIE: One more comment, Jack.
37 I'm not saying there isn't a possibility, but like Tim
38 was saying, Department of Commerce and who?

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Department of Interior.

41
42 MR. ALEXIE: Department of Interior.
43 Who is their boss?

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Donald Trump.

46
47 MR. ALEXIE: The President?

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The President.

50

1 MR. ALEXIE: You know, man, we've got
2 to step on somebody. We've got to protect ourselves.
3 Government to government. Geez, I'm just really
4 disheartened with that notion, thinking, hey, there's
5 got to be a way. We can introduce something, propose
6 something, whatever. I just wanted to raise that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, at our
9 fall meeting we can be better apprised of what's
10 actually the Secretary of Interior, Secretary of
11 Commerce. All of these appointments have to be
12 confirmed. This is all gray right now what's actually
13 going to happen. So we're premature on getting all
14 wound into a tizzy about that.

15
16 Zach.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 To Fred's point a moment ago, the Hatch Act right now
20 is the limitation that the RAC finds itself facing,
21 which prevents the RAC from lobbying. Under those
22 constraints what the RAC isn't able to do is to submit
23 per the OSM correspondence policy written
24 correspondence to the Federal Subsistence Board calling
25 on the Board to take action on an issue that would
26 otherwise go to another Federal agency, in this case
27 Department of Commerce.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for
32 clarifying that. I was going to get into that Hatch
33 Act thing. We can't lobby the President. We can't
34 lobby anybody on anything, but this Council does work
35 with the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal
36 Subsistence Board has been very amicable to providing
37 for hard caps that try to keep this bycatch under
38 control.

39
40 So we've covered that.

41
42 I'm going to give my report.

43
44 I participated in the Federal
45 Subsistence Board deliberations on fisheries proposals
46 and the special action request to repeal the closure to
47 non-subsistence use in Unit 23 for caribou. I was on
48 the conference call with the board and interacted with
49 the Board during their deliberations on those

50

1 proposals.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee met on December 12th in Huslia. The Advisory Committee deliberated the State Board of Game proposals for Region 3, which that's what this Board of Game meeting is over here in Pike's right now.

I went to the Board of Game because I flew yesterday. I thought if I get in, I'm going to go over to the Board of Game and talk to them directly, face to face. When they go to break, there's a line on the floor and you get shot if you walk across that line.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When those Board members come off to go to the potty, I chased -- I got six of the Board members of seven members and I talked to them face to face about the problem with the Central Arctic Caribou Herd and the need for protections for the cow caribou. We'll get to that proposal later on. So I did make a little headway.

The conditions this year, our moose populations, mainly sheep and caribou have crashed big time because of the late spring of 2013. It killed all the calves, the lambs or a lot of them. The cows and the ewe sheep lost their lambs that year. Very few were produced. The next, because of the hardship of those females, the pregnancy rates were so low that there were very few lambs born. So there's three years were actually lost in 2012, 2013 and 2014 was bad also.

Since that time we've had on-time springs, good conditions for the calves and lambs, and this year our freeze-up, it was really rainy in September and then it froze up rock hard and dry. The snow is only 20 inches deep, it's powder dry. The animals can walk through it. They're having a real easy winter. The moose that I've seen are really fat. They're doing really good.

The wolf numbers are low. We had rabies come into the Central Brooks Range three or four years ago that seemed to have affected the number of wolves in the upper drainage. I don't see any big

1 packs. Of course we don't have a heck of a lot of
2 caribou coming down now since the Central Arctic Herd
3 is now 22,600 and staying to the north.

4
5 There's a lot more snowshoe hares.
6 Because when the snow is shallower, wolves have a
7 harder time catching big game animals, but there's lots
8 of rabbits and I seen a lot of wolves catching rabbits.
9 And you look at the droppings, they're eating a lot
10 of rabbits. That's taking a burden off of the moose
11 and the sheep also.

12
13 There's a lot more owls, a lot more
14 hawks and lynx. Our Brooks Range hare population goes
15 to extreme peaks. This is being documented by various
16 scientists with the Bureau of Land Management, National
17 Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. So our big
18 peak is going to be in two years in 2018 and '19 is
19 when we're going to have a lot of -- the country will
20 be completely packed with snowshoe hares. That helps
21 the wolves build litters when they have these big hare
22 numbers. So our predation factors are anticipated to
23 increase.

24
25 The moose and the Dall sheep and
26 caribou are looking better, but right now with these
27 sheep and caribou populations so low, there's need for
28 maintenance of additional restrictions. One of the
29 main restrictions that was put on in 2014 was the
30 exclusion of spotting Dall sheep with an aircraft
31 during the hunting season.

32
33 Hunting guides that cannot use aircraft
34 apparently don't know how to hunt sheep if they have to
35 hunt on the ground. The success rate for one guide, he
36 said he had 10 hunters and he only killed three sheep
37 and he was cussing me out because I supported the
38 spotting ban. I said you've got to get better
39 assistant guides that know how to hunt like everybody
40 else.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a spotting
45 scope, we've got field glasses. Come on now. That's
46 had a big effect on their survivorship of adult rams.
47 Right now with these low sheep populations we have to
48 have breeding adult rams for this population. So that
49 ban was put in place by the Board of Game. There's a
50

1 proposal to repeal that. The Koyukuk River Advisory
2 Committee supports that ban on spotting sheep, so I
3 have high hopes that this Board will continue that and
4 will not repeal.

5
6 At this time that's my report. We've
7 been going here for about an hour and 45 minutes. We
8 should go to a break. We'll go for 15 minutes and come
9 back online at 11:00 o'clock.

10
11 (Off record)

12
13 (On record)

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring
16 this meeting back to order. Gather up our Council
17 Members. We're bringing the meeting back to order.
18 We've got Tim Gervais sitting down.

19
20 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

23
24 MR. GERVAIS: Are Darrel or Don on the
25 line to do their report?

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They're traveling as
28 far as I can tell. Don was on the phone and then all
29 of a sudden he disappeared. I assume he's on an
30 airplane. They're supposed to be flying this morning.

31
32 MR. VENT: Jack, this is Darrel.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you're on the
35 phone.

36
37 MR. VENT: I'm waiting for my flight.
38 It's been delayed again.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, gee whiz.
41 Darrel, can I take your report after a lady, Deanna
42 Tritt. She wanted to talk to this Council and she's in
43 another meeting, so we're at tribal comments and then
44 I'll come back to your Council Member report. I'm
45 going to look for any other public/tribal comments that
46 may be on the phone or in this room, but we're going to
47 go to this BLM Resource
48 Management Plan immediately after that.

49
50

1 So Deanna, go ahead.

2

3 MS. BRYANT: Mr. Chair, Council. I'm
4 just here for moral support with Deanna. Deanna is
5 from Arctic Village and she's going to share a little
6 bit about the caribou and it's impact in Arctic Village
7 area.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to state
10 your name for the record.

11

12 MS. BRYANT: Joanne Bryant.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Joanne.

15

16 Go ahead.

17

18 MS. TRITT: Deanna Tritt of Arctic
19 Village. The caribou up there are doing good, but the
20 place where they trap when they travel with their
21 little ones in August it used to be flat area where
22 they come down. Now all the brushes and everything
23 grew taller than me and those trees are growing like
24 pointed needle. As the caribou drop, all their little
25 ones are dying because the mother can't carry them
26 through those brushes. If you'll ever walk up there,
27 you'll see it. Even a little mouse can't go over it --
28 go through it.

29

30 There's a lot of predators, like wolf
31 and grizzly bear that's bothering them because of the
32 path where they go. It grew a lot of trees. They
33 can't go through it. So that's why now they go through
34 Canada and then they go to us. If you ever walk on
35 where they calf, you'll see what I mean.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're saying
38 that a climate change is causing too much brush and
39 starting to change the migration of the caribou. They
40 call that shrubification of the tundras. It's been
41 happening all over the place. Caribou is one of the
42 animals that's going to be affected by climate warming,
43 is the amount of brush and lichens and stuff like that.
44 But this is the first time I've heard about them not
45 being able to travel because of brush.

46

47 MS. TRITT: Have you ever been up
48 there? Have you ever walked the land up there?

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's out of our
2 region. This is Western Interior Regional Advisory
3 Council. Our region is from the Koyukuk River down to
4 the Middle Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon. We do have
5 customary and traditional use of caribou in Unit 26B,
6 which is Sag River north of the Brooks Range in the
7 Central. We also have use in 25A, but mainly west.

8
9 But I did want to hear your comments
10 because we do have caribou that overlap between your
11 area and where I live. I live in Wiseman and the Upper
12 Koyukuk River and that Central Arctic Caribou Herd has
13 gone way down. It's gone from 68,000 down to 22,600.
14 That is a huge decline. So I do want to hear what your
15 comments are on the caribou.

16
17 If you have more information, continue.
18 You have a lot more wolves where you're at?

19
20 MS. TRITT: There's a lot of wolves up
21 there following the caribou. The caribou are all
22 around us right now and the wolves are along with them.
23 They're around us right now, but they're fur is darker.
24 Our caribou are not that dark on the neck area, but
25 these caribou are different herd. We think they're all
26 mixed up because now they're short, their legs are
27 short and dark. Our caribou is not like that up north.
28 Our caribou has got really white and light brown fur.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you know, the
31 Central Arctic Caribou some of them went in with the
32 Porcupine Herd.

33
34 MS. TRITT: Yeah, that's what one elder
35 is saying, that it got mixed up, but we still eat it.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They all taste good.

40
41 MS. TRITT: They're more tender.
42 They're more tender than ours.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't care where
45 they come from. We like them. We don't ask for
46 passports or anything.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions from
2 the Council Members for Deanna. Shirley.

3
4 MS. CLARK: How is the fur on those
5 wolves?

6
7 MS. TRITT: So far those guys have been
8 shooting some up there, snaring and then shooting them.
9 They snare them like old times. A long time ago they
10 use sticks. They use that. They don't use guns. They
11 don't use snare. Because the fur is so good they don't
12 want to ruin it. That's how I'll put it. That's right
13 they use those sticks like long time ago. It's more
14 easier than shooting it and run after it.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments,
17 Deanna.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

22
23 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I spent three
24 months up at Arctic Village way back when. I don't
25 know if you remember me. I knew some of the Tritts up
26 there. I was up there with Dick Moller

27
28 MS. TRITT: Oh, Dick Moller.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: My wife and I spent three
31 enjoyable months up there in Arctic Village. They were
32 still using bow and arrow some of the people at that
33 time. Well, they had a contest in the spring.

34
35 MS. TRITT: Yeah.

36
37 MR. COLLINS: Very traditional people.

38
39 MS. TRITT: Yes, we like to keep it
40 that way.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate you
43 coming and speaking to our Council. I personally have
44 a lot of concern for the amount of hunting pressure in
45 26B, which is near the Haul Road. There's a lot of
46 hunters going over there and they're killing a lot of
47 cow caribou right now.

48
49 MS. TRITT: Yes, we noticed that, but

50

1 we've been seeing a lot of plane going on our land and
2 people hunting. They leave meat around. All they take
3 is the horn. Caribou horns, moose horns, you name it.
4 A lot of people see them taking off with their plane
5 before we get there. It's been going on this past
6 summer. Now we're ready for them now. We're going to
7 do something about it. Try.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's Arctic Refuge
10 lands, so you can work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
11 enforcement. I always tell people when I'm at meetings
12 I usually have a camera in my pocket, a little camera
13 or iPhone or a lot of people got even a cell phone.
14 Pollock's got a cell phone that takes pictures. You
15 see meat laying on the ground, an airplane, especially
16 if the people are there. I walk right up to them, I
17 take a picture of them, their car, their plane,
18 whatever they got.

19
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife protection
21 really like to get those pictures because they're date
22 stamped. It puts the person or the meat or whatever
23 they're doing, the violation, it puts it in graphic and
24 you've got to call it in right away so that they can
25 come there and look at it because it might take them
26 two or three days to get there. If it's called in two
27 or three weeks later and the bears have eaten it, it's
28 like all over. There is no case. You've got to call
29 those in right away.

30
31 So I tell people in all the villages
32 carry a camera. You see something going on, take a
33 picture of the boat, take a picture of the meat laying
34 there, take a picture of all the stuff and call it in
35 right away. The tribal council should have all of those
36 enforcement officers' numbers right on the wall so the
37 minute somebody gets on the radio and calls in a
38 violation, they can immediately call that in to the
39 troopers and the Fish and Wildlife to get the
40 enforcement coming.

41
42 So I just wanted to tell you that part.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MS. TRITT: Thank you.

47
48 MS. BRYANT: Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Through the Chair. I know the Northwest Arctic Borough
3 in Kotzebue has a manual that they provide for
4 residents in the Northwest Arctic on how to document
5 and file evidence when transporter or guide conflicts
6 are reported by local residents. The planning
7 director's name is "Anugi" Noah Naylor and he could
8 provide you with a copy of that manual if you wanted to
9 obtain that for your residents.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. If it's all
14 written out, your tribal council could get a hold of --
15 that's NANA?

16

17 MR. STEVENSON: Noah Naylor is his
18 name.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I mean it's at the
21 NANA office?

22

23 MR. STEVENSON: Northwest Arctic
24 Borough.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So just get a hold
27 of the Northwest Arctic Borough to get the forensic
28 manual. It's on how to actually enforce these cases.
29 All these villages got to start working together. We
30 see all this wanton waste. Jenny is talking about
31 wanton waste. Everybody sees this wanton waste. I
32 don't put up with it. I see wanton waste, I'm chasing
33 these guys down.

34

35 We have hardly any enforcement. Our
36 trooper is gone. We only had one trooper and he's not
37 even there now. Right now there is no trooper in the
38 whole northeast corner of Alaska. None. Zero. So
39 that's a big problem. Everybody's got to work together
40 on trying to get this enforcement.

41

42 I appreciate you coming up here,
43 Deanna. We're going to move on.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. TRITT: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is anybody on the

50

1 phone that wants to make any tribal comments? Then I'm
2 going to take Darrel's Council Member report. Anybody
3 on the phone wants to make a public or tribal comment
4 on non-agenda items.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't hear any. Are
9 you still there, Darrel?

10
11 MR. VENT: Yes. Good morning, Chair.
12 This is Darrel. My phone is about to die, but I'll try
13 to put in as much words as I could.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,
16 Darrel.

17
18 MR. VENT: Okay. This fall I did my
19 hunting.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're starting to
22 fade out. Are you moving away from your phone?

23
24 MR. VENT: Oh, sorry. I'm just
25 commenting about this fall when I went out hunting
26 there. I didn't have any luck because it was kind of
27 hard to compete against the hunters out there. Just a
28 comment on our moose population. I wasn't able to
29 attend the AC meeting here in Huslia, but I've been
30 told that the numbers have been declining on our moose
31 population. So it kind of got me worried there that
32 some of the proposals proposed for our area. I had to
33 put my own public opinion on that, which was different
34 from the AC comments. Some are opposed and some
35 approved.

36
37 I notice in our area that we're having
38 a tougher time getting black bears because we're having
39 more problems with the other predators, which are
40 wolves and brown bear or grizzly bears. We're getting
41 more of a population in our area, so the black bears
42 are starting to kind of move away.

43
44 Also the moose, I think that might be
45 one of the reasons why our moose are starting to
46 migrate from this area. We're having too much problems
47 with the predators and we're on Federal land, so it's
48 affecting us because we can't take care of our
49 predators like we used to. You know, the hunting

50

1 pressure on the moose and now the predators, it's kind
2 of all building up on us and we're not getting the
3 resources we need for our subsistence use.

4

5 That's my report on the moose part.
6 Now the caribou, I was looking at some of the State
7 management and it states in there that we have amount
8 necessary for subsistence use compared to total use. I
9 think the Northwest Arctic Herd with the Teshekpuk Herd
10 it has a dramatic effect on there because the Teshekpuk
11 Herd is smaller than the Northwest Arctic Herd. This
12 Proposal 102 it has a direct effect on this. It's same
13 hunting pressure, but these are different populations.

14

15 I spoke out on that during the Board of
16 Game meeting and other proposals that Jack mentioned in
17 there which is affecting our herds because in the last
18 three years we haven't had really any caribou
19 population in our area, which we had before, but they
20 only came as far as shelter cabin. It's halfway
21 between Hot Springs and the Huslia area, which is about
22 probably 40, 50 miles out.

23

24 Now they don't even come around and
25 we've been getting reports that they've been kind of
26 going around Shungnak and Kobuk area and hanging around
27 there because the predators are really taking big
28 numbers out of there because they're the -- they've
29 been having problems with people shooting those females
30 that first come in, which makes the whole herd scatter.
31 They don't know which way to go, so we're losing good
32 herds that are either jumping into other herds like the
33 Central or the Northwest Arctic Herds. So the
34 Teshekpuk Herd is kind of getting hit hard in that
35 area. So I'm just kind of concerned about that.

36

37 I think that's mostly everything I
38 could think of right now. If anybody has any questions
39 or anything I could try to answer them.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Council Members
42 have questions for Darrel on his Council report.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, Darrel.
47 Thanks so much. Do you have an idea if you're going to
48 fly today?

49

50

1 MR. VENT: Well, we're waiting on a
2 flight that's been delayed. I'm hoping I'll be able to
3 make it up so I can get some more information to you
4 guys on whatever thoughts that I have. But, yeah, I'm
5 hoping to make it up this afternoon.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got bad weather
8 there or is it good?

9
10 MR. VENT: It's good weather. Just I
11 had problems with this air service before, so it's not
12 a first-timer on that one. I had problems trying to
13 get out before. Ravn has kind of dealt me a bad card
14 again, but I'm hoping I get out today.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I discussed
17 this with Zach and we're going to try and get you guys
18 on Wright Air from now on. Ravn is just not doing it.
19 This cancellation because they don't have enough
20 passengers is unacceptable. We have to have Council
21 participation.

22
23 Thanks a lot, Darrel. Hope you get on.

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Darrel, this is Zach.
30 Again, I apologize for those frustrations with the
31 flight scheduling. I don't know if you overheard this
32 morning that on item 11 on the agenda, new business,
33 under item (a) call for Federal wildlife proposals,
34 Jack had mentioned earlier this morning the intent
35 being to mirror the State and Federal regulations.
36 Also added under item number 11, new business, the
37 potential for addressing some caribou-related proposals
38 as well as the formation of a potential working group.
39 Echoing your point a moment ago on the caribou
40 considerations.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. VENT: Jack, I just wanted to note
45 that on that point about amounts necessary for
46 subsistence, these are numbers that we have to learn
47 how to make the State adjust those numbers so it will
48 really reflect what's going on with the subsistence
49 foods out there.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. The Board
2 has lumped Teshekpuk and Western Arctic into the same
3 ANS amount. The proposal that North Slope had put in
4 was to divide them. North Slope actually backed up on
5 that, so I'm not sure how the Board is going to address
6 that.

7
8 But we do need to address these Board
9 of Game proposals sooner than later because the Board
10 is in session right now. So after we do these Bureau
11 of Land Management Resource Management Plan and then
12 the discussion on that plan, then we're going to go to
13 those Board of Game proposals. So hopefully you're
14 here in time to participate.

15
16 Any other public or tribal comments
17 from anybody in the room on non-agenda items.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any. At
22 this time we're going to move to the Bureau of Land
23 Management presentation on the Resource Management Plan
24 for the Central Yukon. So we have Tim and Erin and
25 they have a slide presentation.

26
27 Go ahead.

28
29 MS. JULIANUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 For the record, Erin Julianus, wildlife biologist for
31 the Bureau of Land Management here in Fairbanks. I'd
32 just like to introduce the Council to Tim LaMarr, the
33 manager for the Central Yukon Field Office. Tim is
34 relatively new. Been here I guess about a year. I was
35 grateful for him being able to attend today.

36
37 Yeah, I'd just like to thank the
38 Council and the Chair for accommodating our additional
39 time request and the schedule, so appreciate that.

40
41 I'll let Tim take it away.

42
43 MR. LAMARR: All right. Thank you, Mr.
44 Chair. Thank you, Erin. As Erin said, my name is Tim
45 LaMarr. I'm the field manager for the Central Yukon
46 Field Office. I'm going to kind of visit with you for
47 a little bit today on the Central Yukon Resource
48 Management Plan revision that we're in the process of
49 working on right now.

50

1 I'll just kind of launch into this
2 here. I have a little bit of background information on
3 what the Resource Management Plan is about and what
4 we've been up to recently as well as when we started
5 the process actually about three and a half years ago,
6 so I'll touch on that as we go here.

7
8 Looking at the map there on the wall,
9 the area that we're talking about is this odd kind of
10 two-headed yellowish-green monster, if you will.
11 That's the planning area. The BLM-managed lands within
12 this kind of yellow-wish area, those are the lands that
13 we manage in the Central Yukon Field Office.

14
15 To look at it a little more closely
16 here or a little bit differently, I guess, the big red
17 line on this slide is the same as kind of the perimeter
18 of the green area in the last slide. BLM manages about
19 13 million acres in the Central Yukon Field Office and
20 those are depicted in the yellow areas on this slide.

21
22 Other land ownership status on here we
23 have Native corporation lands, the ones in dark brown,
24 kind of the checkerboard patterns there. State lands
25 are light blue and the Fish and Wildlife Service lands
26 are in green. The Refuges and Park Service lands are
27 in purple. You can see Gates of the Arctic there to
28 the north and Denali to the south just outside the
29 planning area boundary.

30
31 Within our area we have quite a number
32 of different remote communities and tribes and three
33 regional corporations and 12 village corporations. We
34 have the State of Alaska working with us on this plan.
35 The Fish and Wildlife Service is working with us on the
36 plan as well as a cooperating agency. Also, as I
37 mentioned, a couple of Park Service units.

38
39 So just a little bit about what the
40 Resource Management Plan is about. It's our long-term
41 overarching land use plan. They're designed to last
42 about 15 or 20 years and they set the management
43 objectives for the whole host of resource programs that
44 we manage on BLM lands. Also the land use plans also
45 identify.....

46
47 (Power failure)

48
49 (Off record)

50

1 (On record)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We lost power to the system and we broke while the court recorder remade the call. Are you on that call, Darrel? Did you call back in?

REPORTER: They're still all on.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you're still on there?

MR. VENT: Yeah. I just waited and it came back on.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I thought I might have lost everybody. We'll have Tim continue with his presentation. Go ahead, Tim.

MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I was getting into a little bit, just an overview of what the land use plan -- what the Resource Management Plan is all about. It's our overarching plan. Sets up all our goals and objectives for all the resource management programs that we have. Fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, soil, water, air, vegetation and sets the tone for how we'll manage those resources for about a 20-year period is what the intention is.

We also make decisions in the RMP about land management allocations, so which areas would be open to mining, which areas we might recommend closing to mining. That's kind of a biggy for the Central Yukon Plan because that's one of our most pronounced resource uses that we have going on.

Also we have to make decisions about where to encourage utility corridors, utility development. Obviously the Dalton Utility Corridor in our area is a key area where a lot of that activity is focused. We also have to identify potential restrictions on off-highway vehicles and make area designations associated with that.

And then, of course, we also have -- folks probably heard a little bit about areas of critical environmental concern, ACEC. It's a pretty controversial BLM topic. So the RMP is the mechanism and the process of which we accept ACEC nominations

1 from the public and consider designation of ACECs to
2 protect particular specific relevant and important
3 values. We also are required to take a look at Wild
4 and Scenic River suitability determinations.

5
6 So we have all this stuff kind of going
7 on behind the scenes. Well, we've had it going on
8 behind the scenes in earnest, most recently the last
9 couple of months, but we are currently -- well, wait a
10 minute. Before I get to that I'll just kind of show
11 you back when we started the process.

12
13 I think it was June of 2013 is when we
14 initiated the planning process for the Cental Yukon RMP
15 and the EIS. We did do a 60-day public scoping
16 process, so we had a number of public meetings out in
17 various communities in the planning area. This is just
18 a laundry list of issues that we generated. I'm not
19 going to read all those, but this is just a laundry
20 list of issues that floated to the top as big issues
21 for us to address in the RMP.

22
23 I think you have a handout in front of
24 you that shows the timeline with the RMP process.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That handout should
27 be in your blue packet.

28
29 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, since it's not
30 showing up very well on the wall here.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Towards the end of
33 our material. There's like three different documents
34 here and one of them looks like this. Four different
35 documents.

36
37 MR. LAMARR: The one that shows the
38 process here, kind of looking at those boxes. The
39 orange boxes on the sheet are those steps that have
40 been completed and that kind of gets back to three and
41 a half years ago we initiated the planning process and
42 published the Federal Register Notice to get the notice
43 of intent to prepare the EIS. Conducted the public
44 scoping back in 2013 and 2014 and that included the
45 ACEC nomination process.

46
47 So we accepted and considered ACEC
48 nominations from the public and analyzed our results
49 for those and identified which ones we -- oh, go ahead.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
2 That's Areas of Critical Environmental Concern?

3
4 MR. LAMARR: Yes. Sorry. So ACEC is
5 the shorthand for Areas of Critical Environmental
6 Concern. Those are a requirement that go back to our
7 Organic Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act.
8 They're areas that we're required to consider
9 designations of in our resource management planning
10 process.

11
12 So we published a report in about
13 November of 2015 on the ACECs and what we did with the
14 nominations there. We then put the planning process on
15 hold for a while. The Fairbanks District was working
16 on the Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan at the
17 same time we were trying to get going on this one. We
18 just didn't have enough resources to do both plans
19 concurrently.

20
21 So we put this particular plan on hold
22 for about a year or so to finish up the Eastern
23 Interior Plan. Within the last six months or so we've
24 been picking this one back up again and trying to move
25 forward in earnest on it.

26
27 The way we've been doing that is most
28 recently starting last fall we awarded a contractor to
29 assist us with the planning process. We've been
30 getting quite a lot of quality assistance from them.
31 The contractor was highly involved with the Sage Grouse
32 Resource Management Plan Amendments in the Lower 48, so
33 they come with a lot of knowhow to help the BLM with
34 our planning processes.

35
36 We held a series of workshops
37 internally last fall where the BLM staff started
38 putting together what we're calling preliminary
39 concepts for alternatives. The word alternatives
40 basically in this context just means options, different
41 management options. I'll talk a little bit about some
42 of the specifics of what's in our current preliminary
43 alternatives.

44
45 So where we are right now is starting
46 several weeks ago we started having a series of public
47 meetings. I think we've had six or seven so far in
48 various villages and we've got another eight or ten to
49 go. We're putting maps up on the wall and showing the
50

1 folks in the villages what our preliminary concepts are
2 for different types of management and then trying to
3 get feedback from folks on what portions of the
4 landscape are
5 important to them and why in the context of how do
6 people use the landscape and what are the important
7 resource uses or resource values. So we've been doing
8 that and that's where we are right now.

9
10 What we'll do after gathering public
11 input over this series of meeting between now -- this
12 fall we'll craft the preliminary alternatives into
13 draft alternatives for the environmental impact
14 statement that will be developed for the RMP. The
15 draft EIS, environmental impact statement, is due to
16 come out about the fall of 2018. So about a year and a
17 half from now we'll have the draft EIS out and there
18 will be a 90-day public comment period and more public
19 meetings that will talk about the contents of the
20 alternatives at that point and solicit more public
21 feedback on those at that time.

22
23 And then after that public comment
24 period we'll make any needed changes to the
25 alternatives in the EIS itself and then the final EIS
26 will come out in about summer of 2019. Basically after
27 that there's a protest period and a couple other steps
28 associated with that, the final RMP. The proposed RMP
29 record of decision is slated to come out in spring of
30 2020.

31
32 So folks might have some familiarity
33 with the Eastern Interior RMP. That's the one that was
34 just finished and has been kind of in the news quite a
35 bit. They just finished that RMP with the signing of
36 the records of decision. We're slated to get to that
37 point in three years from now if things go well. So
38 hopefully that kind of points out that we're relatively
39 early in the process right now. The review period that
40 we're in right now is very informal. We're not even
41 calling it a comment period right now, but it's a
42 review period.

43
44 So we are taking public comments on
45 what we have for our preliminary concepts. They've
46 been posted online since January and we've had a number
47 of press conferences and radio spots to try and get the
48 word out. As I said, a number of public meetings that
49 we've been having and we'll continue to have here for

50

1 the next few weeks. We're looking at trying to get
2 comments by March 17th if possible, but it's not a hard
3 comment period. So we'll accept comments after that as
4 well.

5
6 This kind of just touches on -- the
7 comment period, the review period that we're in right
8 now we're trying to get comments by March 17th, but, as
9 I said, this is not a formal comment period. We'll
10 take comments after that.

11
12 The contents of the alternatives that
13 we have so far and the information I'll share here, as
14 I said it's preliminary, it's highly prone to change
15 based on public input and comment. It's a broad range
16 of alternatives that we've come up with so far. That's
17 a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act
18 or NEPA for us to come up with a broad range of
19 alternatives to consider all the possibilities and
20 analyze the effects of that broad range of
21 alternatives. You'll see what I mean here in a minute
22 or two.

23
24 The goals for our public meetings, as I
25 said, were you try and listen to folks in the
26 communities after sharing some of our maps and
27 information. We've actually been leaving maps in the
28 communities and sending postage to the tribal
29 administrators that we've been working with and try to
30 get them to send maps back after folks in the villages
31 have a chance to kind of mark them up and put
32 information on them. So that's one of the ways in
33 which we're trying to get information back from the
34 communities.

35
36 We're also trying to meet people. As
37 Erin pointed out, I've been in my position a little bit
38 over a year, so I haven't had a chance to get out and
39 meet folks in the villages, so it's been an excellent
40 opportunity and a good time meeting folks and starting
41 to get to know folks a little bit out and about.

42
43 So the alternatives -- again, like I
44 said, the alternatives, the best way to characterize
45 them is basically options, different options. We have
46 four that we've drafted up so far. Alternative A is
47 the no action alternative or the current management
48 alternative and that's a requirement under the National
49 Environmental Policy Act, is that we have to consider

50

1 our current management as one of the alternatives in
2 the EIS process. It basically serves as the baseline
3 against which the other alternatives and effects are
4 measured. So Alternative A is the no action
5 alternative.

6
7 Alternative B emphasizes protection of
8 natural resources. Alternative C emphasizes a blend of
9 resource protection and resource uses. Then
10 Alternative D focuses on resource development more than
11 any of the other alternatives. So this is what I'm
12 talking about with the broad range. Alternative B
13 really has a lot of protective proposed management in
14 it and Alternative D has a lot of resource development
15 focused approach.

16
17 One thing we've been talking about when
18 we've been at the public meetings is the BLM does not
19 -- subsistence uses or traditional uses don't fit into
20 one of the institutional boxes that the BLM has in the
21 planning process. So we've been trying to reach out to
22 folks in our public meetings with leaving the maps and
23 trying to establish government-to-government contact
24 with the villages to get information on the areas that
25 folks are using. Get information on what they'd like
26 to see happen on the BLM lands that are nearby them.

27
28 So we're going to continue to try and
29 get that information and have a specific section in the
30 RMP that's focused on traditional uses. We're hopeful
31 that we're going to get quite a bit of feedback from
32 folks on that.

33
34 To kind of boil it down, one of the
35 central questions we've been asking folks is how does
36 our proposed management decisions that we're putting
37 together here affect traditional use resources, access
38 and development opportunities. Recognizing that we
39 need to come up with an approach that manages the
40 landscape to be resilient to change.

41
42 We are working on some tools to help
43 build into our alternatives to help address climate
44 change, but we don't have any of those specifics ready
45 to present at this point. We're still working on those
46 parts of the alternatives right now.

47
48 So I'm going to focus on several areas
49 that are key areas for us in the RMP. Locatable
50

1 minerals, as I mentioned, those are basically gold,
2 silver, copper. The minerals that the 1872 mining laws
3 apply to. Under different alternatives we have a range
4 of areas that we would propose to make available for
5 locatable minerals.

6
7 So right now under Alternative A we
8 have 8 million acres of our 13 million acres are open
9 to locatable minerals right now. Under Alternative B
10 we would propose to leave only about half a million
11 acres open to locatable minerals and we would recommend
12 withdrawal or recommend closure to locatable minerals
13 on about 12.7 million.

14
15 Alternative C we have it split kind of
16 half and half, 6.6 million would be open and almost 6.6
17 million would be recommended closed. And then in
18 Alternative D almost all the acres would be left open
19 in that alternative and very few acres would be
20 recommended to be closed, so you kind of get the feel
21 right there for this is the range of alternatives that
22 we have.

23
24 The basis for the areas that we're
25 recommending withdrawal or closure in our Alternative B
26 are the ACECs that we're carrying forward in that
27 alternative as well as some of the lands with
28 wilderness characteristics in that alternative and
29 we'll talk about that a little bit more in a bit.

30
31 Alternative C we opened up more areas
32 for locatables in that alternative and that was based
33 on taking a look at what we had in Alternative B and
34 then overlaying locatable mineral potential, so we
35 identified areas with high and medium mineral potential
36 and opened those areas back up in Alternative C. So
37 that kind of gives you a feel for the thinking that
38 we've applied so far in coming up with those numbers
39 for B and C.

40
41 We do have maps of all this stuff
42 posted on our website. The way we've been proceeding
43 in the public meetings is taping series of maps to the
44 wall and kind of walking around and talking about them
45 after we kind of get through this presentation.

46
47 So some of the questions we're asking
48 folks about locatable minerals is where should the BLM
49 retain or recommend to lift withdrawals, which would
50

1 basically be closures, and where should the BLM
2 recommend to open or close areas for locatable mineral
3 entries. That's the kind of input that we want to get
4 and the why. Why should we take one approach or the
5 other. What are your reasons for wanting us to do
6 that.

7
8 Let's see. Lands and realty. This is
9 a lot of words on this slide, but I'll just kind of cut
10 to a couple of things on here that are maybe more
11 pertinent than others. One requirement in the land use
12 plan is for us to identify right-of-way exclusion areas
13 or to consider right-of-way exclusion areas, which
14 would be areas where we would not allow rights-of-way
15 at all. So those would be areas that would warrant a
16 high degree of resource protection that we would not
17 want to see those kinds of developments occur.

18
19 So you can see under Alternative B we
20 have identified a list of places where we would
21 recommend right-of-way exclusion areas. We have a few
22 under Alternative C and not many areas in Alternative
23 D.

24
25 The Dalton Utility Corridor and PLO
26 5150 lands, that's a big issue in this RMP. The State
27 of Alaska is interested. They've top-filed 2.1 million
28 acres of BLM lands that are under PLO 5150 and about
29 1.3 million of those are high priority in their mind to
30 ultimately be conveyed to the State.

31
32 The way that would come about would be
33 -- the Secretary of Interior would have to lift the
34 PLO, the public land order, 5150 and once the PLO is
35 lifted, the top-filed lands instantly become selected
36 lands. Based on the input that we've been getting from
37 the State, they're highly desirous of us lifting the
38 public land order so as many of those acres as possible
39 could be conveyed to the State.

40
41 So we have a range of alternatives
42 here. Under Alternative A we would retain PLO 5150 the
43 way it is. Under Alternative B we have about 45,000
44 acres that we would propose lifting, modifying the
45 public land order. Those areas are located mostly at
46 the southern end of BLM land, so just north of the
47 Yukon River up to about Prospect Creek. Jack, I think
48 you can probably relate to the geography pretty well
49 there.

50

1 We excluded areas in ACECs from this
2 modification under Alternative B and then we also left
3 a corridor from about Prospect Creek up to Gold Creek
4 in BLM ownership status under this alternative to
5 provide for ANILCA-based access for subsistence.
6

7 In the areas that we did identify under
8 B and then also under Alternative C, we actually did
9 get some feedback from the State -- some input from the
10 State of Alaska, the Alaska Gasline Development
11 Corporation. They kind of had identified areas that
12 are most desirable for them for the AK LNG Project, the
13 Liquified Natural Gas Project, as well as the
14 Standalone Pipeline Project.
15

16 So we did actually get GIS -- actually
17 got mapping from the State of areas that they were
18 desirous of taking ownership in, so we kind of started
19 with their layer under Alternatives B and C and then
20 took out -- like I said, we took the ACECs out under B.
21 We did that somewhat to the same degree under C and
22 then pulled out the access areas for subsistence uses.
23

24 Alternative C we just identified a
25 number of mile-long access corridors, I think. So we
26 identified a series of seven or eight different
27 mile-long access corridors that we would retain in BLM
28 ownership under that alternative to provide access for
29 subsistence.
30

31 Under Alternative D we proposed lifting
32 everything, lifting the PLO on everything that was
33 top-filed by the State. As I said, that's the input
34 we've consistently been getting from them as to their
35 desires.
36

37 Let's see. The other item on this
38 particular slide has to do with other corridors. We
39 are required to identify other corridors for other
40 utilities in the RMP. In addition to retaining the
41 utility corridor as a utility corridor, we've
42 identified a corridor for the Ambler Road as well as
43 one for the road to Umiat in our preliminary
44 alternatives at this point.
45

46 Again, these are just some of the
47 questions that we're asking folks to consider in the
48 context of lands and realty, is how would all this
49 stuff affect you and what do you want to see
50

1 and why?

2

3 I guess I'll point out also that I do
4 have a stack of printouts of hard copies of this that
5 I'll leave on the table out there if folks want to take
6 one with you and take a look at it in a little more
7 detail.

8

9 Let's see. Lands with wilderness
10 characteristics, that's another decision that we're --
11 we're required to inventory and maintain an inventory
12 of lands with wilderness characteristics and then
13 propose how we would manage those lands.

14

15 In this case we have -- being Alaska,
16 most of our lands have wilderness characteristics.
17 They have to be basically at least 5,000 acres of
18 undeveloped land and provide opportunities for
19 primitive and unconfined recreation. That kind of goes
20 back to the recreation-based definition of wilderness
21 in the Wilderness Act.

22

23 So right now we're not managing any
24 lands specifically for wilderness characteristics.
25 That just is the case on the majority of our lands, of
26 course. Under Alternative B we have 11 million acres
27 we identified, Alternative C 5 million acres and
28 Alternative D zero acres. So again we kind of base
29 that on some of the other resources that are out there
30 as far as the areas that we went ahead and included in
31 this as being managed for wilderness under the
32 different Alternatives B and C.

33

34 Then we also kind of have the fine
35 print here. The fine print gets into talking about
36 regardless of whatever we end up managing for
37 wilderness, if any at all, obviously the
38 ANILCA-specified uses would trump BLM's management for
39 wilderness. We would not exclude ANILCA-based uses and
40 access.

41

42 Again the questions how would this
43 affect you, what would you want to see in your local
44 area. These are the questions we're posing to folks in
45 our public meetings when we go local.

46

47 I'll talk a little bit here about
48 ACECs. Right now we have about 1.8 million acres and
49 18 existing ACECs and eight research natural areas,
50

1 which are more research reasoning-based designation,
2 areas that are important for particular types of
3 research.

4
5 We got, I think, 48 ACEC nominations in
6 our public scoping process. The Interdisciplinary
7 Team, of which Erin was a part, went through -- took a
8 period of several months to go through all the
9 nominations and determined which areas met the
10 relevance and importance criteria, which are basically
11 criteria in the regulations that in order to qualify
12 for an ACEC.

13
14 The relevance criteria are basically on
15 this slide. Important historic, cultural, or scenic
16 values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural
17 systems or processes, or to protect life and safety
18 from natural hazards. So those are the relevance
19 criteria that we have to make a determination on the
20 nomination, of whether it meets those criteria.

21
22 And then we also have to determine
23 whether they meet importance criteria that are also in
24 the regulations and those are focused on whether
25 there's a need to provide for -- in the case of
26 potential public hazard or safety hazard, is there a
27 need to provide for public safety associated with
28 management you would propose, is the area more than
29 locally significant in its importance.

30
31 That seems to be one of the main
32 criteria that gets difficult and grey to deal with
33 because we can't -- you know, we have to evaluate
34 potential ACECs in the context of a region, a regional
35 context, rather than comparing anything that gets
36 nominated for an ACEC in Alaska compared to anything in
37 the Lower 48, you know, is probably going to stand up
38 tall if you look at it at a national level.

39
40 But that would lead us to potentially
41 designate the majority of BLM lands as ACECs in Alaska,
42 which is not the intent of ACECs. They're intended to
43 identify special resources in the context of the
44 region.

45
46 So, anyway, the bottom line is we did
47 get 48 nominations and then we carried forward under
48 Alternative B 33 of those nominations, which includes
49 reexamining the original designated ones that we have
50

1 under current management. We found 33 of them met the
2 criteria to move forward into our alternatives and
3 those total about 4 million acres of land.

4
5 We kept those same 33 under Alternative
6 C, same acreage but with less protective proposed
7 management in Alternative C than under B. Then in
8 Alternative B we're only carrying forward the Toolik
9 Lake RNA and Spooky Valley ACEC. So we're carrying
10 forward very few ACECs in Alternative D.

11
12 Recreation management. We'll just
13 touch on this real quick. We're required to identify
14 special recreation management areas if we think we have
15 any. Right now we have one in the Dalton Corridor.
16 They're places where the majority of our recreation
17 funding is prioritized to go. In the Dalton we have 26
18 or 28 waysides that we manage and four campgrounds and
19 the Arctic Interagency Visitor's Center.

20
21 So we're proposing to carry forward the
22 Dalton Highway Corridor, a special recreation
23 management area in both Alternatives B and C. We
24 eliminated it under Alternative D just for comparison
25 sake to see what that would look like if we didn't
26 emphasize recreation there.

27
28 We're also required to consider
29 extensive recreation management areas and those are
30 maybe more recreation that's more blended with resource
31 uses. Kind of more dispersed recreation. Recreation
32 is less of a priority in those areas than in the SRMAs.
33 So we did identify in Alternative B the Spooky Valley
34 and Nigu-Iteriak under Alternative C as well.

35
36 So those would be places where we would
37 put some funding resources for recreation, but not as
38 much as the SRMA. And again kind of a list of
39 questions. What do you see for a need for recreation
40 in your area, how do you think that BLM would better
41 facilitate recreation in your area. The questions that
42 we kind of pose to folks in our public meetings.

43
44 We're also required to make decisions
45 on off-highway vehicle travel. In the Resource
46 Management Plan the required decisions are to identify
47 areas as open, limited or closed to OHV use. Again,
48 ANILCA uses would not be trumped by any decisions that
49 we would make in this arena unless there is a strong
50

1 reason that shows that we would need to -- if we have
2 some resource impacts or some issues going on in an
3 area we could under ANILCA make decisions to
4 potentially manage that use, but so far we're not
5 really proposing any at this point in our preliminary
6 alternatives.

7
8 So, yeah, we just have some places
9 we've proposed some seasonal restrictions and some of
10 our ACECs. Those are often related to like caribou
11 calving areas and things like that. Again, some of the
12 questions that we posed to the public in our meetings.

13
14 That's kind of it as far as what we've
15 been presenting. We are working on other management
16 behind the scenes. We have it drafted, but it's not
17 ready for prime time so to speak, but over the next few
18 months we'll be continuing to work on that. A lot of
19 that has to do with quantifiable objectives for fish
20 and wildlife habitat, goals and objectives, soil, water
21 and air, other programs that we have a whole suite of
22 management actually in the works for, but this is the
23 material that we've been sharing with folks to this
24 point.

25
26 Again, there's maps of what all this
27 stuff looks like on our website there. Mr. Chair, I
28 think you were asking before the presentation about the
29 PLO 5150 mapping. We think we can get -- we've had
30 some issues getting it 508 compliant for posting on the
31 website, but we're still working on that. We hope to
32 have that posted shortly. We have had hard copies of
33 it that we've shared at some of the public meetings up
34 on the wall.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. I have
39 several questions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
42 Ray.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: I don't know if you deal
45 with the BLM lands in the Kuskokwim River, but one of
46 the areas that needs to be protected is the Big River.
47 I don't know where that is in terms of -- 80 percent of
48 the sheefish in the whole Kuskokwim River spawn in Big
49 River and that needs to be recognized. I keep bringing
50

1 that up and I don't know where it's at in the process.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's all south of
4 this RMP. Do you want to clarify that, Bruce.

5

6 MR. SEPPI: Ray, this is Bruce Seppi
7 with Anchorage Field Office BLM. The Bering Sea
8 Western Interior Land Use Plan, which you guys have
9 already commented on is also being done at the same
10 time as the Central Yukon Plan, although we're about a
11 year, I think, ahead of these guys. We're on the verge
12 of getting out a plan, a draft plan.

13

14 But to answer your question, we've gone
15 through the ACEC nomination process and all those
16 tributaries to the Kuskokwim that were important for
17 sheefish, especially the Big River, were nominated and
18 the one for sheefish was brought forward. So BLM
19 recognizes that as an important area for sheefish for
20 the entire Kuskokwim watershed. So that's going to be
21 really important. The Donlin proposed pipeline comes
22 past that, but farther to the north of that, so Donlin
23 was very critical of making that an ACEC, but it is
24 moving forward.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: The other one is that the
27 Bering Sea cisco, one of the primary spawning areas is
28 above Nikolai there for the whole Bering Sea cisco. I
29 think there's one in the Yukon too. I'm wondering what
30 the considerations are for those areas.

31

32 MR. SEPPI: I don't know the status of
33 that, but I know that was in the mix. Like Tim was
34 saying, we went through this whole relevance and
35 importance criteria also. I wasn't prepared to talk
36 about this in detail today, but I can find out where
37 that is. I know that was brought forward as a proposed
38 ACEC for whitefish in general, but cisco specifically.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Through the Chair.
41 Another question we had is that the BLM is one of the
42 few that can limit the number of outfitters that can go
43 into an area. How does that mesh with the plan in
44 terms of protecting the resources? Have you designated
45 areas where there will be limited access by
46 transporters and guides and so on? How does that mesh
47 with your planning?

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That applies to both

50

1 plans. This has been a big issue with the Western
2 Interior Council is this guide
3 use area. The State has fallen flat on their face on
4 the guide use, commercial service issue. It wasn't
5 given in the overview of the Yukon Plan.

6
7 MR. LAMARR: Right. So, yeah, I think
8 we have -- a little bit different approach is being
9 taken in each plan. I don't want to -- you can maybe
10 speak specifically to BSWI.

11
12 MR. SEPPI: Sure.

13
14 MR. LAMARR: In our case, at this point
15 we're not looking at making those types of decisions
16 with the land use plan. We actually don't -- we can
17 make those decisions aside from the land use plan.
18 They don't have to be considered in the land use plan.
19 We can do a planning effort any time to look at how we
20 would do that. That's the short answer.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The State plan was
23 to develop guide use areas to have one primary guide
24 and then another user, but not the primary. The BLM's
25 current ability is to allow guide use areas, but it's
26 full participation by as many guides as want to
27 participate is my understanding.

28
29 MR. LAMARR: Yeah. And we have areas,
30 I think you're probably aware, up the Dalton where
31 we've limited the use particularly for guided sheep
32 hunts and then we have relatively
33 segregated use in other places, as far as what we're
34 aware of and as far as what we permit. We don't have
35 that many permits in the Central Yukon Field Office. I
36 think maybe they have more in portions of the BSWI area
37 where the potential conflicts are more acute, I think,
38 than what we have. So we have kind of segregated a
39 segregation of those uses in Central Yukon more
40 than.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I'm confused
43 because in 2004 the Resource Council for the BLM met
44 with Henri Bisson, the director of BLM, and Henri
45 Bisson told the community of Wiseman and me in
46 particular and that Resource Council when these RMP
47 processes move forward, they were going to make a
48 statewide guide use area. Even before 2004 it was still
49 a problem.

50

1 I am a little disheartened to see that
2 these RMPs have varying degrees of implementation.
3 When the Regional Director said that this is what we're
4 going to move towards if the State does not provide a
5 guide use area plan. Like the Refuge systems, like the
6 Park Service Preserve lands, I'm concerned that the
7 region, the Bureau of Land Management Region Alaska, is
8 not following through on promises made in 2004 to the
9 Resource Management Council. And there's a member
10 sitting right behind you right there.

11
12 And so I am concerned that the Regional
13 Office has not
14 followed through. It told this Council also at
15 meetings that we would have guide use areas if the
16 State system failed. Right now the State system has
17 failed. There is no State guide use area on State or
18 BLM lands.

19
20 So I want this brought back in the RMP
21 process, in both processes, that there was a promise
22 made for guide use areas. And Bud Cribbley has to
23 follow through for the region that there will be guide
24 use areas in these management plans. I would like to
25 see that. There was promises made and there is a real
26 need for that. A big giant fiasco is on the State and
27 BLM lands.

28
29 19C, they've got guides hunting all
30 over the top of themselves in there because they make
31 drawing permits in Unit 12 and it pushes everybody into
32 19C. There's big, big problems. So that's a problem.

33
34 And this transporter issue, limiting
35 transporters in certain areas where there's overharvest
36 and competition with subsistence. You know, I feel the
37 BLM can control that.

38
39 So you had more comments, Ray.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: No, that's what I've got
42 at this time. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
45 from the Council on this. Fred.

46
47 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I've got a question.
48 I think you said the Ambler Road, did you?

49
50

1 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, I mentioned the
2 Ambler Road.

3
4 MR. ALEXIE: I do not know how far that
5 thing is going yet, but my thing is if that Ambler Road
6 does kick off, where is it going? Along the way while
7 you're doing this, you're saying that this area is --
8 hey, it's all scenic, you know, to me, and it's all
9 resources and there's villages that are affected by the
10 designation of that.

11
12 MR. LAMARR: Uh-huh.

13
14 MR. ALEXIE: How far are you guys into
15 going along and saying, hey, this is going to be
16 designated restoration, this is going to be designated
17 subsistence use, et cetera.

18
19 MR. LAMARR: Uh-huh.

20
21 MR. ALEXIE: It seems to me like you're
22 taking gold minerals
23 over our resources.

24
25 MR. LAMARR: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. ALEXIE: And I do not like that
28 type of thinking that BLM is going through.

29
30 MR. LAMARR: Right.

31
32 MR. ALEXIE: It has to weigh out,
33 balance out, where you're not saying, hey, the rich get
34 richer, the poor get poorer, you know, that type of
35 attitude. Whereas you're taking our resources, our
36 livelihood away from us even though we're way off that
37 Ambler Road designation. I'm looking at my
38 grandchildren, their children use.

39
40 MR. LAMARR: Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. ALEXIE: What is Alaska? Hey,
43 Alaska is all scenic and it's all beautiful, resource-
44 filled lands.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Fred. I
47 -- oh, you want to comment?

48
49 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I could
50

1 speak to where we are process-wise with the Ambler Road
2 proposal if that would help you.

3

4 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, please.

5

6 MR. LAMARR: The proponent of the
7 project is AIDEA, the Alaska Industrial Development
8 Export Authority. So they submitted an application to
9 us. After requesting more information from them on the
10 contents of the application, we did find the
11 application for the project. We found it complete as
12 of last June or July.

13

14 So at this point AIDEA is funding the
15 project. They're funding the environmental analysis
16 for the project and so they will have to fund the EIS,
17 the environmental impact statement, that would go along
18 with the proposed development. At this point they have
19 funding for the scoping phase of the project.

20

21 So later this year there will probably
22 be a series of public meetings. We're actually working
23 on the list of sites and villages to have those
24 meetings and send out letters to initiate
25 government-to-government consultation for that project.
26 We're actually working on that right now because the
27 origin of that route lies obviously within the Central
28 Yukon Field Office off the Dalton.

29

30 So that's where we are on the process.
31 The funding to do the analysis is for only through the
32 scoping process. There is no funding to actually do
33 the environmental impact statement. AIDEA is planning
34 on an 18-month scoping period, a really extended
35 scoping period for that. So the intention is to get
36 out and get a lot of input up front on this.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred.

39

40 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. You know, look at
41 what the Dalton is. Jack brings it up many times. No
42 control. I just don't want that one to be a total flop
43 and it's hurt all of Alaska. It's just what I want to
44 protect. Okay, that's it.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Through the chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

49

50

1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I had one more.
2 That has to do with Donlin's permitting and what's
3 going to happen when they create
4 that right-of-way right along the Alaska Range. Right
5 now what's happening is big planes are chartering into
6 Farewell and we're going to create a highway along
7 there, which does impact with the subsistence use in
8 that same area.

9
10 So restriction is mentioned on four-
11 wheelers and so on. The using of that highway would be
12 critical. Make sure that that is closed to that kind
13 of use after that right-of-way goes through because we
14 weren't able to stop the right-of-way.

15
16 Ironically, we tried to get them to
17 move it down into the black spruce where there would be
18 minimum impact, but that's wetlands. Federal
19 designation, that's wetlands. If there's any birds
20 nesting in there, it's very few, and yet it's
21 designated as -- so what happens to that corridor, if
22 it goes through, is critical to local subsistence use.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the Fairbanks
25 Field Office RMP. Bruce.

26
27 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Collins, through the
28 Chair. Donlin Gold had their draft EIS out last
29 winter. I was involved with that giving the 810
30 analysis. Right now they just started up cooperative
31 meetings with all of the agencies involved. The first
32 since that draft was out. We commented heavily on
33 exactly those sorts of things that you're talking
34 about. Not only the pipeline right-of-way, but barging
35 traffic and the mine site.

36
37 MR. SPENCER: Hey, Bruce.

38
39 MR. SEPPI: Yes.

40
41 MR. SPENCER: Yeah, hi. I'm sorry.
42 This is Mark Spencer. I just got in on the call. I'm
43 the District Manager with Anchorage Bureau of Land
44 Management. I just wanted to chime in a little bit. I
45 can give you and the committee and Mr. Chair an update.
46 We just had a cooperating agency meeting last week and
47 I'd be happy to give the committee an update if you
48 would like.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're in the middle
2 of the Central Yukon RMP and I would like to discuss
3 under the BLM -- they're further out in front on that
4 process, but we're currently in the middle of this
5 Central Yukon Field Office RMP discussion. That's
6 where we are on the agenda. We keep jumping over the
7 border down into the Anchorage Field Office, but I want
8 to stay focused on the Central Yukon RMP.

9
10 Pollock, you have a comment.

11
12 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
13 Pollock Simon, Sr. I live in Allakaket, Upper Koyukuk
14 River area. I have a concern about mining and roads.
15 The peoples of Allakaket and Alatna have the same
16 concerns. We had not a good experience with the oil
17 pipeline haul road, which was put in in the early '70s.
18 Since then we didn't have any caribou migrating into
19 our area because of the road and travel on the road and
20 the headlights of the trucks can impact caribou
21 migration routes and the hunting pressure up on the
22 road area.

23
24 People are concerned because we have
25 limited number of wildlife resource. Moose numbers is
26 low and no caribou migrating to our area. The fish,
27 king salmon population is way down, so peoples are
28 concerned about new mines development. When AIDEA
29 came to our village a few years ago and talk about a
30 proposed road to Ambler for mining, everybody in Upper
31 Koyukuk River was opposed to it because fish and
32 wildlife shortage.

33
34 If this road is put into Ambler,
35 there'll be people coming up the road to look at the
36 mountains and might hunt and trap and fish around our
37 area. The proposed Ambler Road will travel just a few
38 miles north of Allakaket and Alatna and that's prime
39 hunting and fishing area. So people back home are
40 opposed to mining development and road development
41 because for that same purpose.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.
46 Because this RMP would have extreme detriment to the
47 subsistence use by the area I live in, I have the
48 highest -- and the most detrimental would be to open
49 the Public Order 5150.

50

1 In 1971, I wrote a comment here that I
2 intend to bring to the meeting that the BLM is going to
3 have. My first point is that the Alternatives A, B, C
4 and D basically all -- of course the BLM is not going
5 to retain A, which is the status quo, because this is a
6 management plan and there's changes and they're going
7 to need to change. So all other B, C and D have giving
8 opening Public Order 5150.

9
10 Which in 1971 the U.S. Secretary of
11 Interior withdrew the Dalton Highway Utility Corridor
12 from selection by State or Native corporation
13 ownership. The State of Alaska had from 1958 till 1971
14 to select those lands. They didn't do it.

15
16 Now the State of Alaska, because
17 there's a road there, they want the BLM to gift them
18 BLM lands that will not be counted against the State of
19 Alaska's currently 20 percent over selected. Twenty
20 percent over selected. They have lots of land. It's
21 not like there's a limitation on the lands they can
22 take. They want the BLM to give them the Dalton
23 Highway Corridor.

24
25 The Secretary of Interior is under no
26 obligation in any way, shape or form to do that.
27 Because it would revert to State regulations, the
28 people where I live have to hunt either on the BLM
29 lands, which is the valley floor where all the moose
30 live, or in the mountains for Dall sheep in the Park.
31 We don't have access to a moose population unless we're
32 on the BLM lands.

33
34 So I wrote this comment, "These
35 communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot have long resided
36 in the Middle Fork Koyukuk River valley, and relied
37 heavily on the subsistence resources of the surrounding
38 area. Therefore nearly every person turned out to hear
39 the presentation on the new RMP in 2013. Many comments
40 were made on various aspects of land use planning, but
41 by far the largest concern was the State of Alaska's
42 request for modification of Public Land Order 5150 to
43 allow more Federal BLM lands to be conveyed to the
44 State, especially the one surrounding this community of
45 Wiseman and Coldfoot.

46
47 I, as well as the whole community that
48 was present at the meeting am adamantly opposed to any
49 further modification of the current PLO 5150 to allow
50

1 State selection of Federal Public Lands in the existing
2 Utility Corridor. My reasons are: the legality, the
3 detriment to the communities here, and it is not in the
4 best interest of the people of America.

5
6 1) On December 27, 1971 the Secretary
7 of Interior withdrew the transportation and utility
8 corridor 'from all forms of appropriation under the
9 public land laws except for location for metalliferous
10 minerals under the mining laws' with Public Land Order
11 5150. 'The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Act' of 1973 adopted
12 and affirmed that action. The State of Alaska had not
13 selected the Central Brooks Range by 1971. The State of
14 Alaska has over selected other lands that were open to
15 selection. The 'Utility Corridor' BLM property was
16 closed not only to the State of Alaska selection, it
17 excluded Native Corporation selection also."

18
19 Who is asking to open this public order
20 for more Native selections. Is that in the
21 alternative? No, because the Natives can't. And the
22 State of Alaska is over selected already.

23
24 "2) Opening PLO 5150 and conveying more
25 lands to the State of Alaska would be in violation of
26 the 'Federal Land Policy and Management Act' (referred
27 to as FLPMA) of 1976. Sec. 102. [43 U.S.C. 1701] (a)
28 The Congress declares that it is the policy of the
29 United States that (1) the public lands be retained in
30 Federal ownership, unless as a result of the land use
31 planning procedure provided for in this Act, it is
32 determined that disposal of a particular parcel will
33 serve the national interest; It is not in the National
34 interest to allow the State of Alaska [to gift the
35 State of Alaska] selection of any lands in the utility
36 corridor. The lands the State has proposed for
37 selection are choice oil and gas lands, or gold mineral
38 worth eventually billions of dollars to the Nation."

39
40 So it's in violation. Opening 5150 is
41 in violation of FLPMA. Better read the statute.

42
43 "3) The 1980 ANILCA Sec. 906(a)(2)
44 Extension of selection period. In furtherance and
45 confirmation of the State of Alaska's entitlement to
46 certain public lands in Alaska, 6(b) of the Alaska
47 Statehood Act is amended by substituting 'thirty-five
48 years' for 'twenty-five years.' The State's request
49 for additional lands, especially reserved and

50

1 appropriated lands after 1993, is not proper or valid."
2

3 The first RMP should have conveyed any
4 lands opened under 5150 and that 7,000-acre withdrawal
5 that they gifted to the State of Alaska in 1993 should
6 be the extent of their top-filing conveyance, if any.
7 5150 was open for that 7,000 acres. There is no
8 extension, so it's in violation of ANILCA 906.
9

10 "4) Finding the State's request for
11 modification of PLO 5150 to be invalid" under FLPMA,
12 ANILCA or the Statehood Act "an ANILCA Title VIII Sec.
13 810 analysis would need to be adhered to, except for
14 Sec. 810(3)(C)(c), with diligence paid to the extreme
15 detriment to the communities of Wiseman and Coldfoot."
16

17 810 analysis have to look at any action
18 that would affect subsistence. This action would
19 severely be detrimental to the subsistence uses of the
20 people of the Middle Fork Valley.
21

22 "5) The Middle Fork/Dietrich Valleys
23 have provided the primary subsistence for these
24 communities for 120 years." There's a book written
25 about Wiseman in 1932. "As the author Robert Marshall
26 wrote in 1932: 'If it were not for living off of the
27 country, civilization on the Koyukuk could not survive
28 today. ...were it not for the additional subsistence
29 provided by the animal and plant life of the region."
30 This applies to all rural subsistence villages and
31 especially where I live. "'These biological resources
32 are made available through hunting, trapping, fishing,
33 berrying, logging and gardening.'"
34

35 This is a quote from 1932 and that's
36 the first time I ever saw written the word subsistence.
37 Bob Marshall used the term subsistence.
38

39 "There is not a grocery store available
40 at all in this area. The closest store is 275 road
41 miles away in Fairbanks. That is typically 13 driving
42 hours round trip and great expense to shop or see
43 health care. Subsistence uses are as important to the
44 residents of this area today as they were in the past.
45 If the State receives these lands as a gift, it would
46 put local people in grave hardship. State regulations
47 provide only sport hunting opportunities with archery.
48

49 The lands the State has selected around
50

1 Wiseman typically are where a large percentage of
2 moose, some sheep and some years many caribou, along
3 with many of the grouse and waterfowl, as well as a
4 very large percentage of fuel wood. Access to these
5 resources is on the Nolan, Hammond and Wiseman roads
6 with highway vehicle in the dry season and with
7 snowmobile in winter.

8
9 Subsistence uses and harvest areas are
10 well documented by Carol P. Scott in 1992/93 published
11 in 1998 as 'Invitation to Dialogue: Land and Renewable
12 Resource Use Over Time In Wiseman, Alaska' Technical
13 Report NPS/CCSOUW/NRTR-98-03 NPS D-31. Ms. Scott's
14 study was partially funded by BLM. (Note Wiseman
15 Subsistence use areas Map 6 page 181 occurring on BLM
16 lands.)

17
18 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
19 Subsistence Division did another Subsistence uses and
20 mapping study of Wiseman/ Coldfoot in 2011. Published
21 as Technical Paper No. 372, 'Subsistence Harvest and
22 Uses of Wild Resources by Communities in Eastern
23 Interior Alaska, 2011' David Holen, Sarah M. Hazell and
24 David Koster. (Note mapping of intensive subsistence
25 use areas on BLM lands pages 342-383)

26
27 6) Wiseman is one of 10 Resident Zone
28 Communities that have Customary and Traditional use
29 eligibility inside of the Gates of the Arctic National
30 Park. The only winter access to traditional areas to
31 the west, is with snowmobile through the Wiseman valley
32 or up the Hammond River drainage. In dry season highway
33 vehicles are used to get as close as possible on the
34 Nolan and Hammond River roads. If these areas were
35 State land, it would preclude access to traditional
36 hunting and trapping areas inside the Gates of the
37 Arctic National Park, under state regulations."

38
39 There's no use of all-terrain vehicles.
40 No sno-goes can be used in the Dalton Highway Corridor
41 unless it's subsistence under Federal regulation. We
42 would lose Federal designation. State regulations in
43 the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, 5 miles
44 from each side of the road, currently do not allow the
45 use of motorized vehicles....."

46
47 "The loss of the ability to harvest
48 subsistence resources with customary and traditional
49 methods adjacent to these Communities on the Federal
50

1 public Lands would place an extremely great hardship on
2 the local residents."
3

4 That's my comment. I would like the
5 Council to submit that comment, especially regarding
6 lifting 5150 to the BLM on this within this comment
7 period on the alternatives.
8

9 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do I have a second.
12

13 MR. ALEXIE: Second.
14

15 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second. Those in
18 favor of submitting these comments that I read into the
19 record.....
20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Question.
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
24 called. Signify by saying aye.
25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My other point is
29 the current website the matrix is very hard to use.
30 There is no mapping that I can locate that would show
31 -- as you said. There's no mapping for the area I live
32 in. The alternatives are too slanted towards
33 opposition by miners. Alternative B, which has pluses
34 and minuses, has so small of mineral entry that of
35 course you're going to get lots of mining opposition.
36 So Alternative B is DOA.
37

38 So there is a need for an alternative
39 that reflects reasonable opportunity for mineral
40 selection that excludes opening of 5150. I submitted
41 an ACEC for north of Wiseman Creek. That has
42 documentation by radio-collared Dall sheep utilizing
43 that area and winter range. That ACEC was excluded.
44 It's unconscionable. I don't see it in the ACECs.
45

46 MR. LAMARR: Midnight Dome I think is
47 what we call it.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
50

1 MR. LAMARR: It's in -- yeah, there
2 should be mapping that you can zoom into in the Wiseman
3 area. There is not mapping of the PLO 5150 proposal as
4 we talked about, but we're trying to get it there.
5 We've had issues getting the maps compliant -- for that
6 particular proposal compliant with Section 508 of the
7 ADA, the Disabilities Act.

8
9 So we're trying to get that posted and
10 we have been sharing hard copies at the public meetings
11 for folks who are interested. The folks in Allakaket
12 at our meeting there were very interested in that,
13 those alternatives. We talked about them there. Other
14 villages we visited haven't shown much interest to this
15 point in that particular area because we've mostly been
16 downriver.

17
18 But, yeah, your ACEC nomination has
19 been carried forward, so.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see it in
22 the list.

23
24 MR. LAMARR: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see it on
27 any list in any alternative.

28
29 MR. LAMARR: It is though. If it is --
30 if it's not listed somewhere, it's an issue. But we've
31 talked.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, if Karen can
34 find it for me.

35
36 MR. LAMARR: I remember we talked about
37 it specifically.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But it's not on the
40 list. I don't see it on any alternatives list.
41 There's no Wiseman Creek ACEC.

42
43 MR. LAMARR: We called it Midnight
44 Dome.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't even see it.
47 I saw it in the document that came out listing all the
48 ACECs. I saw that, but I don't see it on any of the
49 alternatives. So I would.....

50

1 MR. LAMARR: It's on the maps that I
2 have in my office.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it got dropped
5 on your matrix.

6
7 MR. LAMARR: It did get carried
8 forward. It might have been omitted from this list,
9 but it is carried forward.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, it's
12 not showing on your website. Let me put it that way.
13 The bottom line is I don't think the alternatives that
14 you've provided to date, the four alternatives -- my
15 comment is the four alternatives provided to date do
16 not reflect what is acceptable to the subsistence use
17 --and this is the Western Interior Regional Advisory
18 Council -- to the subsistence use of that area that I
19 live in. It's not acceptable under ANILCA and opening
20 5150 or the FLPMA.

21
22 So there needs to be an alternative
23 that does not convey the lands in the Dalton Highway
24 Corridor. I don't care if the State wants you to give
25 them on a golden platter the lands of the Dalton
26 Highway Corridor. There is no compelling reason other
27 than out of the kindness of your heart you would do
28 that because they've over selected by 20 percent. They
29 have 120 percent of the lands. They didn't select
30 those lands before 1971.

31
32 Now they want the premium lands now
33 that we know what's there that are worth billions of
34 dollars to the nation. There is no reason under FLPMA
35 or the Statehood Act to convey those lands. So there
36 is a need to have an alternative that does not convey
37 any lands to the State of Alaska.

38
39 That's what my statement is.

40
41 MR. LAMARR: I have some thoughts if
42 that's okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

45
46 MR. LAMARR: One of the things that
47 we've been saying throughout the public meetings we've
48 been having is I highly doubt that the final decisions
49 that we make with this resource management plan will

50

1 very closely resemble any of these preliminary
2 alternatives, okay. So I think in the end what's going
3 to happen is these alternatives we have at this point
4 are going to change a lot based on the public input
5 we're trying to get right now.

6
7 There will likely be, which is usually
8 what happens with this kind of a planning effort
9 anyway, is the final decision is a picking and choosing
10 of portions of all the alternatives into what is
11 finally the selected alternative. I would expect
12 that's what's going to happen here. I think that's how
13 some of the issues that you're bringing up will likely
14 end up getting addressed.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But all the
17 alternatives have opening 5150 other than status quo,
18 which is a dead-end issue.

19
20 MR. LAMARR: I don't necessarily agree
21 with that on that particular issue. I mean there are
22 parts of Alternative A that will probably be selected
23 in the end. I guess I don't see that as that dead of
24 an option as maybe you do. But send us the letter in
25 writing from the RAC. Yes, please do.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will hand you
28 this copy and I have lots more if you need more.

29
30 MR. LAMARR: Good.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
33 from the Council on this RMP. That's my area, so I
34 have to speak to my area. Basically we'll be in real
35 hardship if they convey the land to the State of
36 Alaska.

37
38 MR. LAMARR: One of the things I might
39 mention if it's okay is the lands -- the only way the
40 State would be able to get the lands under 5150 would
41 be if the Secretary lifts/modifies the PLO, but those
42 lands would instantly become selected. Right now
43 they're top-filed. They would instantly become
44 selected and they would count against the State's
45 allotment. So they wouldn't be additional lands that
46 would be gifted as you would say. They would be lands
47 that would count against the -- what do they have, I
48 think about 5 million acres left in the allotment. So
49 those lands would.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But they have 100
2 million acres over selected or some amazing amount of
3 -- not 100 million, but 20 million over selected.
4

5 MR. LAMARR: Yeah. I think the last
6 figure I saw was somewhere 18 or 19 million, I believe.
7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there is no
9 reason under FLPMA to convey lands to the State under
10 -- lifting 5150. As far as I know, this Secretary's
11 selection -- the new Secretary of Interior is not in
12 favor of conveying lands. I read about this guy.
13

14 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think this is
17 going to be a hard sell for the BLM to gift these lands
18 to the State of Alaska. I think that's going to be a
19 hard sell for the BLM if they choose to continue in
20 that direction. So my intention, if the BLM continues
21 to move in that direction under an alternative that
22 would gift these lands to the State of Alaska, would
23 personally write to the Secretary of Interior and talk
24 about this issue, which he seems to be highly opposed
25 to that. There's no need. There is no need.
26

27 So I want to see an alternative at our
28 next meeting that reflects an alternative that does not
29 have State selection of the Dalton lifting 5150. I
30 want to see an alternative that has more of a -- would
31 build broader-based support for an alternative with
32 more mineral entry. I don't want to see the miners
33 excluded from selecting. I have no problem with placer
34 mining as long as they stay within the environmental
35 restrictions. The environmental restrictions maintain
36 water qualities and so forth.
37

38 So I want an alternative, an RMP, that
39 reflects the best use of the lands including the
40 subsistence uses.
41

42 Any other comments.
43

44 MS. CLARK: I have a question.
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
47

48 MS. CLARK: This is kind of off point,
49 but what is your biggest problem in this area and how
50

1 do they divide the money up from the government? Is it
2 population, acreage or politics?

3

4 MR. LAMARR: I'm not sure what you mean
5 by divide up the money from the government.

6

7 MS. CLARK: Well, the BLM gets money
8 from the government I understand. Does it have to go
9 through Congress and be voted on or you just have a set
10 pot that you get every year?

11

12 MR. LAMARR: No, we every year we go
13 through, like any other agency, a budget process where
14 hopefully Congress passes a budget. The President
15 usually proposes a budget. Congress either rejects it
16 or modifies it or has their version of the budget and
17 then hopefully in the end we come up with a budget that
18 funds us by program. The amount of funding we get by
19 program kind of indicates our priorities.

20

21 So that's kind of in the most
22 straightforward explanation of that. I guess often we
23 end up on a continuing resolution, meaning we haven't
24 passed the full budget, so sometimes we're funded
25 several months at a time. You hear about the pending
26 government shutdowns, all that stuff. So I think right
27 now we're under a continuing resolution. I'm not sure
28 when the current one expires. So, yeah, that's how we
29 get funded. There tends to be some relative
30 consistency for us to kind of keep our basic programs
31 going.

32

33 I mean you asked about what our biggest
34 problems are. Do you mean as far as what are our
35 biggest -- what do we spend our most time on? Is that
36 kind of what you're getting at?

37

38 MS. CLARK: Yeah. Is it money or is it
39 him or us?

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. LAMARR: Well, I mean we always
44 feel -- actually the mining program is a good example
45 where we feel like we can use a little bigger budget
46 and I can use a couple more people to help stay on top
47 of the 45 or 50 mining operations that we have going on
48 in our field office. You know, like Mr. Chairman was
49 talking about making sure that water quality is being

50

1 addressed and resource conditions are being taken care
2 of responsibly on the ground associated with these
3 mines. That's something we can always benefit from.
4

5 But, yeah, we do spend time internally
6 talking about those things and trying to get more
7 budget and staffing to the field office level where the
8 work is being done on the ground. But as far as with
9 the RMP process, we're expecting a lot of comments from
10 this current comment period that we're in, so I think
11 when we get the comments there will be a period of a
12 month or so for us to go through them and pull out the
13 substantive ones that kind of help inform us where
14 we're going with the preliminary alternatives that we
15 have now and shape them to address the substantive
16 comments.
17

18 I don't know if I'm really answering
19 your question ideally the way you would have me do so.
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that cover some
22 of what you're thinking?
23

24 MS. CLARK: Yeah, it gives me an idea
25 since I'm new. I could ask more pointed questions, but
26 it might be lunchtime.
27

28 (Laughter)
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.
31

32 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To
33 clarify what the WIRAC's intent is here, I'd like to
34 make a motion that the WIRAC make some official
35 correspondence to the Federal Subsistence Board to ask
36 the Secretary of Interior to request that the BLM
37 provide an alternative that's not listed here that is
38 not skewed towards mining or industrial interests and
39 that has provisions that protect the rights of
40 subsistence users and get that out in a timely manner
41 that it's part of the public debate.
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can include that
44 in the annual report. We're going to have an annual
45 report. So the Federal Subsistence Board reviews the
46 annual report and we could request that in the annual
47 report when we do that during this meeting.
48

49 MR. GERVAIS: So what's the stage we're
50

1 at with the annual report? Is it going to be sent away
2 this meeting or next meeting?

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This meeting. So
5 we're going to finalize our annual report and we can
6 include that as a topic in the annual report. Usually
7 if it addresses an agency, then the agency will respond
8 through the Federal Board, but the Federal Board is
9 made aware of the issue. And we can request in that
10 annual report topic certain aspects to the Federal
11 Board.

12
13 So you make a motion to include that
14 into the annual report?

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, I do.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second
19 for that.

20
21 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
24 Any further discussion on including that.....

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
29 called. Those in favor of submitting into the annual
30 report a request to the BLM and Secretary of Interior
31 to -- final.

32
33 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. To request
34 corresponding to -- ask the Federal Subsistence Board
35 to request to the Secretary of Interior to request that
36 the BLM provide an additional alternative beyond what's
37 been stated in this meeting that is more favorable to
38 maintaining subsistence rights and keeping the prospect
39 of lands being conveyed over to the State to have an
40 option available that doesn't include lands being in
41 the Dalton Highway Corridor conveyed over to the State
42 of Alaska.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's clear
45 that it's basically to not allow opening of 5150 and
46 maintaining more -- providing subsistence
47 opportunities. So that will be an annual report topic.
48 Those in favor of that motion signify by saying aye.

49
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

4
5 (No opposing votes)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that will be in
8 our annual report also. I think Shirley's right.
9 We're coming down on lunchtime. After lunch YRDFA
10 wanted to talk about some aspects of the RMP process
11 also, so we'll move to that and then we'll be moving on
12 through our agenda.

13
14 I appreciate you coming up here to talk
15 to us, Tim. You were here at the beginning of the
16 meeting. Subsistence is not just food on the plate.
17 It's part of your whole being, your food, everything.
18 So the prospect of losing your life way at a stroke of
19 a pen is very concerning, so that's why I seem to be
20 impassioned.

21
22 So we'll break for lunch. It's almost
23 1:00 o'clock. We'll come back at about 2:00. Is that
24 agreeable?

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For people online
35 we're waiting for Fred Alexie to come. Are you online
36 Darrel Vent?

37
38 (No response)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hopefully Darrel is
41 flying.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can't wait all
46 day for Fred, so we're going to call this meeting back
47 to order. We were supposed to be back at 2:00 and I
48 have 2:10. Fred Alexie is missing. I think Donald and
49 Darrel are flying, so they're not on the phone. We're
50

1 coming back to order.

2

3 YRDFA is going to come up, Suzanne and
4 Wayne, and they're going to -- we're on that BLM RMP
5 process, so they had some supplemental information to
6 discuss with that whole process.

7

8 Go ahead. Thank you.

9

10 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Chairman
11 Reakoff and Western Interior RAC Members. We
12 appreciate this opportunity to share some information
13 with you and we hope it helps in the process. Suzanne
14 is going to take the lead on the PowerPoint here, but I
15 want to introduce Suzanne Little. She is with PEW
16 Charitable Trust. We have been working together for
17 the last three or so years on assisting and supporting
18 tribes in better engaging in BLM's RMP process on the
19 Central Yukon in Bering Sea-Western Interior Region.
20 So I'll turn it over to Suzanne and we'll get going.

21

22 MS. LITTLE: Thanks so much, Chairman
23 Reakoff. Thank you very much for allowing our
24 presentation today. We just wanted to sort of give a
25 little bit of background information, piling on to the
26 good work that BLM did earlier. We will try very hard
27 in respect of BLM's presentation earlier not to be
28 duplicative. So we'll try not to repeat anything.

29

30 We saw this map with BLM. First of
31 all, I must say that BLM has a very difficult job to do
32 in Alaska with resource management planning. To answer
33 your question, Shirley Clark, they are basically, in my
34 opinion, funded as though they were a Lower 48 agency,
35 but they have many more challenges to face in Alaska
36 with remote communities, difficulty in communicating.
37 It's a whole other thing. I've always advocated that
38 BLM needs additional resources. So good on you, BLM,
39 for doing all you can with what you have.

40

41 So the three plans that have been
42 active, the Eastern Interior, which is the red one, it
43 just got completed in January, so it's done; the
44 Central Yukon, which is the green one; and the Bering
45 Sea-Western Interior, which is the yellow or orange
46 depending on how you look at it.

47

48 These planning processes are a
49 marathon. They're not a spring. The Eastern Interior

50

1 Plan took eight years from beginning to end. So we're
2 expecting several more years for both of these planning
3 processes.

4
5 So we went through and did an analysis
6 of how many communities have a lot of BLM land around
7 them. We took a circle 50 miles outside of each
8 community and determined how many acres of BLM land was
9 within a 50-mile circle around each community.
10 Communities that have more than 1 million acres of BLM
11 land within 50 miles we ended up calling them key
12 communities.

13
14 We were just trying to figure out,
15 okay, who needs to care about these plans. We decided
16 that the communities with the most BLM land around them
17 are going to be the most affected by decisions made in
18 the plan.

19
20 So there are 32 key communities. These
21 are communities that have a whole bunch of BLM land
22 around them. Thirteen of them in the Central Yukon and
23 19 of them in the Bering Sea-Western Interior. Here's
24 a list of the key communities in both the Central Yukon
25 and the Bering Sea. Almost all of these communities
26 have Federally recognized tribes in the community and
27 have the privilege of government-to-government
28 consultation on these Federal planning efforts.

29
30 So far both Wayne and I, if requested
31 by the tribal community, have assisted tribes in
32 putting forward areas of critical environmental concern
33 nominations if tribes requested our assistance. So far
34 22 areas have been nominated by tribes in the Bering
35 Sea and Central Yukon Plans. There are more than just
36 tribal nominations, but there are 22 tribally nominated
37 areas.

38
39 There are four really important reasons
40 for people in subsistence majority key communities to
41 have a voice in BLM's planning process. One, people
42 know the land best in the planning process and people
43 living with the land are going to be most affected by
44 any decisions that are made in the planning process.

45
46 Additionally, and this is no fault of
47 BLM at all, but in our entire state we have a lack of
48 data, a lack of Western science about our land. BLM
49 hired the Alaska Center for Conservation Science to do
50

1 a rapid eco-regional assessment of the Central Yukon
2 area and there's 10 pages of data gaps, including that
3 the stream data is 70 years old. They only have about
4 50 percent of the streams listed. They have good
5 information on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, but not
6 for the other herds in the region.
7 So there's some pretty big holes, missing data.

8
9 So given that local people have good
10 information about the area and there are data gaps and
11 BLM is under-resourced, no fault of their own, no fault
12 to BLM at all, but BLM has no tribal liaison officer or
13 anthropologist in either of the planning areas to
14 assist the key communities in communicating about
15 important needs and concerns to the agency.

16
17 So those four reasons make it really
18 important for people living with the land, communities,
19 just from a food security perspective, to become
20 involved in the planning process and have their voices
21 heard. So tribes can enter into
22 government-to-government consultation with BLM and this
23 is an effective way for subsistence communities to make
24 their views heard better by BLM. And the tribes,
25 because they're governments, can enter into cooperating
26 agency status with BLM.

27
28 This is another step that takes a lot
29 of effort on the community's part, but it is also a way
30 for communities to really have a say in the outcome of
31 the plan.

32
33 I have the great honor of being
34 requested to assist Eastern Interior tribes in their
35 cooperating agency status in the Eastern Interior Plan.
36 The tribes there put in hundreds of hours. Really had
37 to put in the time to read through draft documents,
38 make comments to draft documents, but, in the end, the
39 tribes got 76 percent of what they asked for. They
40 didn't get everything, but a heck of a lot more than
41 what they started out with.

42
43 So it is a process that works for
44 tribal communities, subsistence communities to have a
45 say in the resource management planning process.

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: Question.

48
49 MS. LITTLE: Yes.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: You mean 76 percent of
2 the acreage they requested?

3
4 MS. LITTLE: Yes. Yeah, I wasn't clear
5 about that. The communities proposed a Salmon Fork
6 area of critical environmental concern and in the draft
7 plan the entire Salmon Fork area that they had
8 nominated was open to mining. So that really spurred
9 the communities into action to try to gain some
10 protections for the area that they nominated for
11 protections.

12
13 Through both government-to-government
14 consultation and cooperating agency functions, the
15 tribes were able to in the end achieve almost all of
16 what they asked for, 76 percent of the acreage was
17 protected.

18
19 MS. CLARK: Does the firefighting get
20 the biggest amount of your monies?

21
22 MS. LITTLE: So we have nothing to do
23 with BLM at all and the fire function with BLM is
24 totally a separate function outside the resource
25 management planning. It's important and people in the
26 communities rely on firefighting for income.

27
28 So this is what Chief Nancy James from
29 Fort Yukon, the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal
30 Government, said: The land is survival. We need to
31 preserve it for our children and our children's
32 children. That is where we do subsistence and can
33 enjoy life. So it really goes land to people, people
34 to land. That's who we are. We protect the land to
35 protect our future. Kind of sums it up.

36
37 So Wayne is going to talk a little bit.
38 He's been attending the Central Yukon meetings that Tim
39 was talking about and he's going to talk about what
40 he's hearing people say at those meetings.

41
42 MR. JENKINS: Thanks, Suzanne. So we
43 hear the same pattern and the same issues from
44 community to community. This comes even further back.
45 I mean during when we were getting the ACEC work and
46 now moving forward. These are just some of the issues
47 that we captured.

48
49 Protection of fish, watershed habitat
50

1 and clean water is critical. There are concerns about
2 guided trophy hunts on local harvests. Changing
3 climate affects species that are important to
4 traditional use. Mining and road building affect
5 habitat and traditional harvest and they have concerns
6 around that. State of Alaska top-filing of Dalton
7 Highway Corridor is very concerning to communities,
8 especially ones close to the corridor.

9
10 In the process of sharing information
11 with BLM, confidentiality and sensitivity of that
12 information being shared is an issue for some villages
13 and communities. How can their best interest be
14 protected when sharing these very personal and kind of
15 confidential information about where hunting takes
16 place, where fishing takes place, which watersheds,
17 while giving BLM the detail that they need to defend
18 their positions.

19
20 MS. LITTLE: So just some really quick
21 facts. We've gone over the Dalton Highway, but in the
22 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 17(c), that's the
23 area under which the 5150 withdrawal happened. Under
24 that withdrawal the State was not permitted to select
25 lands, like Chairman Reakoff mentioned earlier. So the
26 State top-filed the land, which means that when the
27 State selects land, there is no longer rural
28 subsistence priority, but when they top-file land rural
29 subsistence priority still applies until there's a
30 change of ownership. So that's the real significant
31 subsistence issue with the Dalton Highway Corridor.
32 Quick fact.

33
34 So we've been putting our thinking caps
35 on here and we've tried to solve some problems. The
36 data gap problem. We're wondering if the Western
37 Interior RAC has Western science available supporting
38 protection of traditional uses of BLM-managed land that
39 would be useful to BLM. That's one thing we're
40 wondering.

41
42 We're wondering if the Western Interior
43 RAC has information about how to solve the
44 confidentiality issues.

45
46 Do you want to take the next one.

47
48 MR. JENKINS: Does the WIRAC have the
49 resources to support tribes in government-to-government
50

1 consultation or cooperating agency status. These are
2 all things you have to kind of look within your own
3 body and your relationship with OSM Staff to try to
4 maybe -- because there's just huge capacity challenges
5 for both BLM and at the community level.

6
7 MS. LITTLE: Does the Western Interior
8 RAC have a tribal liaison or anthropologist resource to
9 lend to tribes concerned about subsistence in the
10 planning process? It's a real deficit that people
11 don't have -- that tribes don't have sort of technical
12 support for entering into consultation with BLM.

13
14 Then the most creative question that we
15 have is could the Western Interior RAC actually become
16 a cooperating agency on behalf of subsistence
17 communities in the Bering Sea-Western Interior and
18 Central Yukon Plans to represent subsistence concerns
19 in the BLM's planning process. So that traditional
20 ecological knowledge could be gathered in a legally
21 defensible way to contribute to the BLM planning
22 process, to cover subsistence concerns.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My coordinator is
25 not here, but we do have OSM Staff. This Council under
26 805 of ANILCA is an arm of the Federal Subsistence
27 Board. We advise the Federal Subsistence Board on any
28 issue that affects subsistence. So the RMP and any
29 issue that affects subsistence this Council can comment
30 on that.

31
32 We are funded, but we don't have
33 control of funding. OSM controls how our Councils are
34 supported. This Council can request -- if there was
35 specific information that the Bureau of Land Management
36 or some agency, this Council can request that that data
37 lack be supplied. OSM has some really good
38 anthropologists. They've made a lot of analyses on
39 various proposals and they have a lot of information
40 written into those analyses.

41
42 The Bureau of Land Management or
43 entities who needed that information could probably
44 request that information through those already
45 completed analyses. So this Council could make a
46 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
47 Office of Subsistence Management to provide needed
48 information in this RMP process.

49
50

1 If BLM doesn't have the funding to do
2 it, there's a lot of analyses that have already been
3 completed and OSM could probably provide you with a
4 bibliography of the various analyses that delineate the
5 uses by various communities and how long they've been
6 there and what their customary and traditional use
7 practices are. There's a heck of a lot of data just
8 sitting there, but it needs to be mined out of what OSM
9 has already done for 25 years or a long time now.

10
11 So this Council could, in discussion of
12 this RMP process, which we have an agenda item for the
13 annual report, we could state in that annual report
14 that we would request that OSM work with BLM to supply
15 the information needed by the Bureau of Land Management
16 in the RMP process to protect the subsistence users.

17
18 There's a Native liaison for OSM that
19 works with the tribes. If there was additional
20 information needed, the Native liaison could contact
21 each tribe. That's how OSM really works.

22
23 We do have Tom Kron back there with
24 OSM. I don't see Gene
25 anymore, he took off, but Tom could fill in anything
26 that I'm missing there. Do you have anything, Tom?

27
28 MR. KRON: Is anybody from anthropology
29 on the teleconference line?

30
31 (No response)

32
33 MR. KRON: Not hearing a response. I
34 think you've covered things well. To submit a request,
35 I don't know what the response would be. I think to
36 have Orville Lind or a Native liaison work along with
37 the anthropology staff to help fill in information gaps
38 based on analyses that have been done over the past 25
39 years is a good place to start.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tom. I
44 do want BLM to be aware that there's a phenomenal
45 amount of information at OSM. Every time there's been
46 a king salmon proposal, a moose proposal around all the
47 communities within the Western Interior Region there's
48 been all these analyses and each one goes into great
49 detail about all those communities uses and so forth.

50

1 That information could be provided to
2 the Bureau of Land Management. No use reinventing the
3 wheel. That information is there. It just needs to be
4 mined properly. This Council can include in the annual
5 report a request to assist BLM. BLM can
6 come to OSM and say we have a data lack, we have 10
7 pages of data lack here. We need information on these
8 various communities and these kinds of uses and I think
9 that can be provided.

10
11 Would that address the majority of what
12 you're looking for, Suzanne?

13
14 MR. JENKINS: I don't have an answer
15 for that, Mr. Chair. It's certainly -- you know, these
16 resource management plan processes are supposed to be
17 all inclusive. They're supposed to identify what they
18 need to know and then find it or accept that it can't
19 be found or they can't create it. So I would think it
20 would go a long way depending on how BLM engages and
21 how well they take it to heart and use it and I can't
22 speak to how they would do that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Of course BLM would
25 have to fund some of this, but it wouldn't be like
26 doing all that work, all of that research all yourself.
27 You just have to go down and work with OSM. I'm not
28 sure the compatibility of how the anthropologists with
29 OSM would work with this process, but I think there's a
30 phenomenal amount of information. I don't know how
31 many -- I read these analyses for all these proposals.

32
33
34 There's amazing amounts of information
35 that's been cleaned out of Subsistence Division,
36 studies themselves, YRDFA work with various
37 communities. There's a lot of information that's
38 compiled. So that doesn't have to be -- but the data
39 needs to be incorporated into the RMP process. So I
40 think it would be cost effective to do it that way.

41
42 MS. LITTLE: Mr. Chairman. I think
43 we're just looking at the idea of improving the
44 communication between subsistence-reliant communities
45 and BLM. Anything that helps is a good thing. So if
46 we can achieve a little measure of improvement, our day
47 will have been well spent here.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

50

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Tom Kron from
2 OSM. Again, the Staff at OSM we're Staff to you, we're
3 Staff to the Councils. I know right now with all the
4 other issues that are going on in other parts of the
5 state that the anthropology staff are really maxed out,
6 but I was encouraged to hear in the earlier
7 presentation that this process will be going on for a
8 period of time. So that allows a little bit of
9 flexibility to get the information you're talking
10 about.

11
12 I've worked on analyses that you've
13 seen. A lot of Staff have put that stuff together and
14 I'll bet you're exactly right. Trying to get
15 information out of that library of information would
16 help to address a lot of these data gaps people are
17 talking about.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Of course there's
22 more work to be done, but there's always an increasing
23 need for current data. Data gets stale. But there's a
24 lot of data around that the BLM could incorporate it
25 into the -- and then when actions that would affect
26 this moving target of all these alternatives, when
27 these alternatives highlight certain communities or
28 areas, then they could focus what those local impacts
29 would be. There's a lot of this data around.

30
31 MS. LITTLE: I think the other really
32 important point is that actually many of you sitting on
33 this board your communities have nominated areas of
34 critical environmental concern. I mean the majority of
35 your communities have. So the critical piece is
36 achieving supportive information for those nominations
37 that your communities have made for protection of
38 subsistence resources. So any measure of improvement
39 that we achieve is a good thing.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This council has
42 endorsed various ACEC requests by communities, so this
43 Council can request that OSM provide BLM with any
44 needed information regarding those ACEC uses. What
45 those uses are, what those critical uses may be.

46
47 How do you feel -- you motioned to put
48 this annual report topic to the BLM, Tim. Would you
49 like to amend that to include a directive from the
50

1 Council that the OSM assist the BLM in the RMP process
2 to document the uses that would be necessary in those
3 ACECs?

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, to document the
6 subsistence uses in those areas and assist in just
7 general transfer and sharing of
8 information on the affected topic of interest.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And also other
11 action items like opening
12 up of a salmon stream to mining or 5150 issues with
13 certain communities or any of those things. Each one
14 of these communities -- I gave a short bibliography for
15 the area. There's been two studies done where I'm at.
16 Each area typically had quite a bit of anthropological
17 work done there.

18
19 So I feel that OSM is kind of a gold
20 mine of anthropological work because they've had Staff
21 nearly 25 years and so some of
22 these issues that as the RMP process starts to refine
23 into basic alternatives, then there's going to be
24 questions in that data. So I think that OSM can be
25 supplying that and I think that this Council can
26 request that so that the best decisions can be made by
27 the Bureau of Land Management that affects subsistence
28 uses.

29
30 I would need an amendment to your
31 motion.

32
33 MR. GERVAIS: So make a new motion or
34 just amend it?

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, just amend. It's
37 the annual report topic to the BLM. Just amend it with
38 that addition.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to amend the
41 previous motion for the Federal Subsistence Board to
42 communicate to the BLM that the OSM make information
43 available regarding -- does it have to address
44 specifically to the areas of environmental concern?

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Bureau of
47 Land Management's actions contemplated under the RMP
48 that would affect various communities throughout the
49 Central Yukon planning area and

50

1 the Bering Sea planning area. They should have access
2 to that OSM data. That's what we're asking for.

3
4 MR. THOMAS: Should there be some kind
5 of a wording that they request (microphone off).

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's hard to say
8 what this RMP is going to ask for. Right now it's kind
9 of unclear what exactly the RMP is going to be -- the
10 alternatives might morph.

11
12 So Tim LaMarr is going to come and
13 weigh in on this issue.

14
15 MR. LAMARR: Yeah.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: We didn't get a second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no second to
20 the motion. We're not clear on the motion though.

21
22 MR. GERVAIS: I've got to finish the
23 motion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, it wasn't
26 clear on the motion.

27
28 MR. GERVAIS: I've got to finish the
29 amendment.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it would be any
32 of the BLM actions that would affect various
33 communities, whether it's an ACEC or other actions.
34 The need for information on those subsistence uses of
35 those communities associated to that action. BLM
36 should be able to access that to make an informed
37 decision on the RMP.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So I would like
40 the amendment to include the verbiage you just went
41 over.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've got a
44 second to that.

45
46 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

49
50

1 MS. INGLES: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Who's on the
4 line?

5
6 MS. INGLES: This is Palma. I stepped
7 out for a second and I came back and they were talking
8 about anthropology. Sorry about that. I did hear most
9 of it. We should be able to work with BLM and provide
10 community information as needed, you know, if the
11 request comes in. I know we're swamped right now, but
12 that is something that is written up in many of the
13 proposals and the analysis for proposals, so we should
14 be able to help provide some of that information as
15 needed.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, what I was
18 talking about is you have all of the community profiles
19 and all that really cool work that's compiled into
20 basically what the uses are for various communities.
21 That's the stuff that the BLM needs. I'm sure that
22 each community -- there's various proposals have
23 occurred around every community in the Western Interior
24 whether for fish or wildlife.

25
26 The Bureau of Land Management doesn't
27 have the funding to develop that. It's already in your
28 database. So I feel that this Council, to make the
29 best resource management plan for the BLM, should be
30 requesting that that be made available with nominal
31 funding from the BLM.

32
33 MS. INGLES: The other resource I would
34 recommend to BLM is at the Alaska Department of Fish
35 and Game. Under their subsistence files you can go in
36 and program in community by community name and see if
37 there's reports in that.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's true. Yeah,
40 that's true.

41
42 MS. INGLES: There's a wealth of
43 information in those reports. Many of them which have
44 come through our FRMP projects.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So basically
47 it's an annual report topic to help the BLM because
48 they're vastly under-funded for these projects and this
49 data is in the database of the State and the OSM on
50

1 these subsistence communities.

2

3 So we're in discussion on -- Tim.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: I was just asking if
6 anybody would second my amendment.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny seconded.
9 We're still in discussion.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Through the Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: Some of it should be well
16 documented already. Like I know I submitted reports on
17 the Big River and the name of Big River is actually (in
18 Native), which means sheefish harvest river. So that
19 has a long depth of -- that was where they went to
20 harvest sheefish. And there's some information on
21 other place names and so on.

22

23 Above Tonzona there it's (in Native),
24 harvest place, and that's where the king salmon are
25 harvested. And then that was followed up by studies by
26 the State to determine how many salmon or sheefish
27 spawned up Big River. So that data is available and it
28 shouldn't be necessary to reinvent that or go back to
29 the communities on some of that stuff. It's already in
30 the record.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I mean
33 there's lots and lots of data available. If there's 10
34 pages the BLM is lacking, the blanks can be filled in.
35 It shouldn't be that expensive to do. I mean it's just
36 going to take time to come up with that bibliography
37 for every community and every area and what's known
38 about it.

39

40 Any other discussion by the Council on
41 that motion to amend the BLM topic in the annual
42 report.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

47

48 MR. ALEXIE: Question.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
2 called. Those in favor of that amendment signify by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Amendment passes.
12 You had any further discussion, Tim?

13
14 MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
15 would just add that we would anxiously accept any
16 information we could get. Right now we're in a phase
17 where we're going out and asking folks in person, but
18 we recognize the need to invest some staff time to
19 working with OSM and the State. We had already talked
20 about working with the State Fish and Game to access
21 reports through them.

22
23 But, yeah, that would be very helpful
24 for us in terms of establishing a foundation in the RMP
25 not just related to ACECs but the basics. What areas
26 are important, why, what resources on those areas are
27 important and what are reasonable approaches to manage
28 for them. So that transcends ACEC designations. I
29 guess I just kind of wanted to share that.

30
31 I don't know if that helps clarify.
32 From our perspective it is a gap that hasn't been
33 filled to this point for the Central Yukon RMP and we
34 are still trying to fill it in various ways.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're trying to make
37 it as easy for you as possible.

38
39 MR. LAMARR: Yeah, I appreciate that.

40
41 MR. SPENCER: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

44
45 MR. SPENCER: This is Mark Spencer.
46 I'm the Anchorage District Manager of BLM. Just to
47 give the committee a quick update on the Bering Sea
48 Resource Management Plan, the State of Alaska, which
49 includes the different programs, DNR, Fish and Game,
50

1 they are a cooperating agency and they've been actively
2 involved in the planning process. Fish and Wildlife is
3 also a cooperating agency. We have been working
4 closely with them. We can use that vehicle with Fish
5 and Wildlife.

6
7 We're currently on board to reach out
8 to OSM Staff and be sure to get them involved in the
9 process and use some of their data. We may be using
10 some of that data now, but I don't have the details,
11 but we'll work with our Fish and Wildlife contacts to
12 get our OSM contacts involved in the process.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're further
15 along in your process, so you're already doing what
16 we're suggesting. The Subsistence Division has done
17 various contracts for like this gasline stuff. A lot of
18 the communities that even get near that gasline,
19 Bettles, Evansville, Allakaket, they get studied. The
20 Ambler Road, they get studied. Wiseman gets studied.
21 They're use areas. They get into these detailed
22 databases.

23
24 So the information is around and so
25 Central Yukon Field Office can work with the Anchorage
26 Field Office to get in contact with various individuals
27 that can provide this information. But this Council
28 would like OSM to be involved in also providing that.
29 Not just Fish and Wildlife Service but OSM involved in
30 this.

31
32 MR. SPENCER: We will follow up on
33 that, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.
36 Appreciate that. Your name again?

37
38 MR. SPENCER: My name is Mark Spencer.
39 I'm the District Manager at BLM, Anchorage District.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
42 Mark.

43
44 MR. SPENCER: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further. Tim.

47
48 MR. LAMARR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Just one more point I'd add. For the Central Yukon
50

1 Plan probably over the next five to six months is a
2 pretty critical timeframe for us to get that
3 information and to parlay it into proposed management
4 in our alternatives. I think I may have mentioned
5 during my previous presentation this fall, I believe by
6 the end of September, our schedule has us completing
7 the drafting of the alternatives by then.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Coming into
10 the critical phase. Okay.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MS. LITTLE: Thank you very much.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thank
17 you, Suzanne. My coordinator is still out. Our
18 coordinator, not just mine.

19
20 MS. CLARK: Is he taking a long lunch?

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, he's making
23 travel arrangements for
24 Ray here, is what he's actually doing. After that we
25 were going to move into the Board of Game.....

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there, Tim.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to have Suzanne
32 explain again what the purpose of the PEW Charitable
33 Trust involved in this process is.

34
35 MS. LITTLE: Thank you very much.
36 Through the Chair. The PEW Charitable Trust is a
37 global non-profit organization. My role is basically
38 helping with environmental justice issues, helping
39 communities that are most affected by Federal land use
40 plans have a voice in the planning process and
41 achieving whatever outcome they wish. And it's an
42 environmental justice role.

43
44 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So this is just
45 fulfilling a part of the mission statement for the PEW
46 Charitable Trust by assisting with this process.

47
48 MS. LITTLE: Right.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I covered
4 the BLM RMP process. It took a lot of time, but it's
5 pretty important to this whole region, so we wanted to
6 get that thoroughly covered.

7
8 The Board of Game is meeting right now.
9 They're working down through the proposals. I'm not
10 exactly sure where they're at. If Tom or Lisa or
11 somebody can email George Pappas over there at Board of
12 Game and see where they're at on their agenda. I would
13 like to get a comment to them on -- the proposal is
14 Proposal 105, which is a caribou proposal.

15
16 As I was discussing earlier, the
17 Central Arctic Caribou Herd has declined from 68,000 in
18 2010 down to 22,600. I worked with the area biologist,
19 which is Beth Lenart. The Department was changing --
20 they're analyzing data on how to harvest this caribou
21 herd. As I was saying earlier, there's need for
22 additional protections.

23
24 So I wrote a comment to the Board of
25 Game that I'll read into the record so the Council
26 understands where I'm going with this.

27
28 Proposal 105 is suggested to amend and
29 adopt. This is a Department of Fish and Game proposal.
30 I am personally very concerned about the rapid decline
31 of the Central Arctic Caribou herd since 2010. I have
32 been in contact with the Area Biologist Beth Lenart to
33 ascertain the actions of the DFG. I feel the current
34 actions that will be presented in the RC and A&R are
35 the minimum to reduce detrimental harvest of cows.

36
37 The current recommendation the
38 Department is going to use is NW 26B, which is the
39 coastal area north of 6930, I think it is, residents.
40 This remains the same as current seasons and bag
41 limits: 5 caribou/day, July 1 to June 30; however, cow
42 caribou may be taken July 1 to May 15.

43
44 This would basically be the area near
45 Nuiqsut and the coastal areas. The main hunting occurs
46 south of that line where there are thousands, not
47 hundreds, thousands of hunters go in the fall time. If
48 caribou are present, there are literally thousands of
49 hunters. They used to have a check station at the

50

1 Yukon River and they counted on weekends up to 2,000
2 hunters annually would go to the North Slope to hunt
3 caribou.

4
5 So the remainder of the southern
6 portion -- and Unit 26B is the central portion of the
7 North Slope and we have customary and traditional use
8 of caribou of that Central Arctic Caribou, so we
9 actually can hunt caribou in 26D. South of that line
10 the Department is proposing a 2 caribou limit August 1
11 to April 30; however, cow caribou may only be taken
12 November 1 to April 30. They're cutting off the whole
13 August and September and October portion of the season.

14
15 I got word that they're still in the
16 GMU 12 Proposal 88, so we've got a little bit of time
17 yet to get this comment in.

18
19 They're dropping the non-resident
20 harvest from 5 bulls down to 1 bull, August 1 to
21 September 15. They're real concerned about this
22 caribou herd.

23
24 I will agree with the Department these
25 actions are imperative to stabilize this decline or at
26 least reduce human additives to the decline.

27
28 I would like to see additional measures
29 taken at this time to grow the herd back to a level
30 that promotes larger range use. Larger herds cover more
31 area, thus more use by people of a wider area. That
32 affects the subsistence users in our region.

33
34 At this time adopt the Department's
35 proposal and amend the language for Proposal 105.

36
37 In addition, direct the Department of
38 Fish and Game to emergency close cow caribou hunting in
39 Unit 26B remainder after March 1, 2017 until November
40 1, 2017. Basically they need to close the cow caribou
41 season next week.

42
43 Caribou have about half the
44 reproductive capacity of moose. Caribou never have
45 twins and are subject to winter hardships because they
46 are grazers, which do not affect moose. Snow greater
47 than three feet, ice events, and late springs
48 overstress and reduce fecundity or the productivity of
49 the cow caribou.

50

1 If the moose population had more than a
2 50 percent population decline, there would be a
3 complete closure of any cow harvest.

4
5 Caribou hunting has a higher incidental
6 harvest mortality or wound factor than singular species
7 like moose. Wound rates for caribou should be between
8 15-30 percent. In the Koyukuk, a biologist studied how
9 many moose were hurt in the early '90s and 15 percent
10 of the moose that were harvested were wounded and lost.
11 There's a lot of moose that get away. Caribou is twice
12 that many because they're a herd animal, they're
13 shooting at longer ranges.

14
15 Right now the preliminary reported
16 harvest for this regulatory year, basically last fall
17 through now, is 176 cows in GMU 26B. That is the
18 minimum mortality. In the 2016-17 regulatory year
19 harvests have been 45 percent cows so far. This is a
20 very high cow harvest proportion.

21
22 If you add the wound loss to what that
23 harvest is, there's a cumulative human-caused mortality
24 of over 200 cow caribou during this season. There is a
25 great need to Emergency Order closure of cow harvest in
26 GMU 26B remainder after March 1, 2017. There are
27 increasing numbers of hunters using dog teams from the
28 Dalton highway coming up from Fairbanks in the last two
29 years. The department's analysis shows that no more
30 than 75 cow caribou can be harvested. If the analysis
31 is correct, the current season's harvest has exceeded
32 that threshold by 250 percent.

33
34 Cows lead the main migrations. Killing
35 lead cows most of the time can deflect herd movements.
36 Experienced lead cows have range knowledge and are more
37 adept at predator avoidance. Protection of cows
38 especially in the fall hunt is extremely important for
39 the future.

40
41 The Western Arctic, Teshekpuk, and now
42 Central Arctic Caribou Herds are in need of reduced cow
43 harvest. All three herds should have uniform harvest
44 regulations in GMU 22, 23, 24, 25A west, and 26 A&B.
45 Cow harvest season should be October 1 to February 1.
46 That's after the cows have migrated in the fall and
47 before they migrate in the spring.

48
49 Bull caribou harvest should be February
50

1 1 to October 10. Protecting bulls when they are low
2 grade, during the rut. These seasons would allow
3 caribou harvest throughout the year wherever they are
4 on their ranges, but would eliminate cow harvest when
5 they are predominantly migrating and calving. That is a
6 future proposal to look at.

7
8 At this time adopt the Department's
9 recommendations and emergency close the cow harvest
10 this spring March 1 to November 1, 2017.

11
12 I would like a motion to adopt that as
13 a comment from this Council. Basically this comment is
14 before the Board of Game as RC, record copy, 9. I
15 would entertain a motion to adopt this recommendation
16 from this Council and I would like discussion of it if
17 a motion is taken.

18
19 MR. SIMON: So moved.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

22
23 MR. ALEXIE: Second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Fred.
26 It's fairly clear to the Council my objective and my
27 concern about the cow caribou.
28 Any further discussion.

29
30 Pollock.

31
32 MR. SIMON: I went to the caribou
33 workshop in Anchorage and this speaker talked about --
34 she told a story and talked about there were so many
35 wolves out there. In one pack there were 17 wolves.
36 She talked about they were scared to go camping because
37 there was grizzlies roving around. She said those big
38 packs of wolves could eat a large caribou. The Board
39 tried to reduce our season catch, but nothing said
40 nothing about doing predator control, catching wolves
41 or bears, and that would be saving a lot of caribou.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The positive thing
46 of the Dalton Highway area, positive as far as
47 predation goes, there's a lot of hunters that hunt
48 grizzlies on the North Slope. By harvesting so many
49 bears on the North Slope, the only place where there's
50

1 very many muskox on the North Slope is in the Dalton
2 Highway Corridor. The Arctic Refuge hardly has any
3 muskox left because the bears ate them all or chased
4 the rest of them away. The remaining muskox live in
5 the Dalton Highway Corridor because the bow hunters
6 basically keep consistently harvesting grizzlies and
7 they're large bears that kill muskox.

8
9 So the Dalton Highway Corridor has that
10 bear harvest. There's nominal wolf harvest north of
11 the Brooks Range. There's some harvest on the south
12 slope of the Brooks Range by local trappers and so
13 forth.

14
15 But this is strictly to try to
16 stabilize this caribou population. We need to start
17 protecting the cows and that's what this comment is
18 regarding.

19
20 Any further discussion.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MR. SIMON: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
27 called. Those in favor of transmitting this
28 electronically to George Pappas at the Board of Game
29 meeting to endorse what would be referred to at the
30 Board of Game as RC-9, which is the entirety of what I
31 just read here, signify by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Got a comment, Tom.

40
41
42 MR. KRON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I can
43 text George immediately and tell him to basically run
44 with RC-9, tell the Board that this Council has
45 unanimously supported it and ask him to basically make
46 sure that it's read into the record and that the Board
47 understands the content.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate

50

1 that. Are there any other proposals that this Council
2 -- in your advisory committee comments to the Board,
3 Ray, did you have any comments that you felt that this
4 Council should address as a Council to the Board of
5 Game?

6
7 MR. COLLINS: No. Most of ours is not
8 BLM or State land. I already commented on the
9 effective program they had in the McGrath area to bring
10 the moose population back up.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Shirley,
13 you're on the GASH Advisory Committee?

14
15 MS. CLARK: No.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you're not.

18
19 MS. CLARK: I've been off for a while.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So don't have
22 any Board of Game proposals that you'd like to.....

23
24 MS. CLARK: Well, the council said they
25 heard up river that the Koyukuk had a permit hunt and
26 they've been trying to get that, but it's been knocked
27 down every time they proposed it. So they thought I
28 should look into that. This is to cut down some of the
29 outside hunters in the Innoko Refuge and in our hunting
30 areas.

31
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. We're
34 going to be looking at proposals later on in the
35 meeting. That's on our agenda, so we can look into
36 that. This is for current -- the Board is deliberating
37 proposals right now.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Ruby AC, do you
40 know if they had any AC meetings and had any proposals
41 that this Council would like to address?

42
43 MR. GERVAIS: No, they didn't. They
44 didn't meet this fall.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, they didn't
47 meet. I can't discern any additional proposals to
48 comment to the Board of Game. So Proposal 105 is
49 probably the most pressing and the biggest effect to
50

1 this Council.

2

3 So now we're going to -- I did get a --
4 Marcy Okada with the National Park Service is going to
5 give -- why don't you come up here to the mic, Marcy,
6 about Annette's presentation. Is Annette Watson on the
7 phone?

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, Darrel Vent is
12 here. Glad to see that. Come on up, Darrel. I think
13 you're right over here.

14

15 MR. VENT: Hey, I never had anything to
16 eat. I've got to go eat here.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Marcy is going to
19 give -- I think everybody here got this sheet from
20 Annette Watson. So do you want to give us sort of an
21 overview of this, Marcy. Is she supposed to be on the
22 telephone there?

23

24 MS. OKADA: Annette Watson is going to
25 be giving the presentation, so I just texted her to
26 call in.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So she should
29 call in imminently?

30

31 MS. OKADA: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Maybe we'll just --
34 until I hear her on the phone, I don't want to lose any
35 time. Are you on the phone yet, Annette? I haven't
36 heard her bleep in. Did she respond to you?

37

38 MS. OKADA: She said she's calling in
39 now.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So maybe
42 we'll stand down for a minute or two and when I hear
43 her bleep, which should be imminent, then we'll move
44 into her thing. She's only available today. That's
45 why I'm having to deal with this one right now. A
46 five-minute break.

47

48 (Off record)

49

50

1 (On record)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring this meeting back to order. I don't know what happened to Pollock, but have to keep the ball rolling. Annette is on the phone. Marcy is at the mic here. We're going to go through her presentation, which is a single sheet with her name at the top, the Western Interior and Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Councils. That should be laying in front of you.

Go ahead, Annette.

MS. WATSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead with your presentation.

MS. WATSON: Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry I can't be present today in Fairbanks. I have been contracted. I'm an independent researcher contractor working from the College of Charleston and the National Park Service has asked me to complete this study with the following name: Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of the Southern Preserve Unit of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

There's two main objectives of this project. That is to weave together the different strands of literature, examining the historic and contemporary land use of Inupiat Nations living on the Upper Kobuk River and the Koyukon Athabascan people that live on the Upper Koyukuk River.

So what I've been doing since fall of 2015 is engaging with tribal councils in each of the villages within the study area and the villages in this study are Ambler, Shungnak, Kobuk, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket and Evansville/Bettles.

So I've been trying to develop and go into a lot of the existing ethnographic work. Work by explorers, reading some of those accounts, but also listening to many existing oral histories and also written biographies of people from each of these village areas to try and bring this existing dataset to bear on a very long-term understanding of land use change in this region over time as well as trading patterns that have existed for the last thousands and

1 thousands of years.

2

3

4 So the project itself, I'm doing a lot
5 of mapping work. I'm digitizing some existing data
6 sources of historical data, trying to utilize existing
7 Alaska Native place name work, other kinds of datasets
8 that tribal members or tribal administrators have
9 indicated would be useful to use in the project. Also,
10 when I've gone to villages, I have been doing mapping
11 work for contemporary lifetime use areas.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So I have been compiling basically a
community view from each of the perspectives of these
villages as far as how people utilize the land. It is
a method of collecting spatial information that had
been derived from a project that I worked with the
tribes of Allakaket and Alatna on, who also wanted to
more or less look at or focus on lifetime use areas to
recognize that there are some years that water levels
are low in a place and you won't go in a particular
area.

So that's why this project is focused
more or less at a longtime scale and I'm going to be
able to compare the two recent generations of
subsistence users in terms of where they go on the land
for subsistence and that can tell us a couple different
things. It tells us -- it will be able to tell us how
people are responding to things like changes in
ecosystems and numbers of animals as far where they go
is an impression of need often for the animal or
whatever it is. Also it will tell us some things about
other economic information; about the cash economy and
what pressures the cash economy has had on the
subsistence economy.

So I am at the stage where I've
collected almost all of the existing data and any of
the new spatial information, the mapping information.
I'm about to go off to each of the villages to now
consult with interpreting some of the patterns on these
multi-generations of subsistence patterns.

I did get an email response from Jack
Reakoff when I initially sent my one-pager and, yes, I
would agree subsistence is very much a moving target.
My plan with the final tribal consultation will be to
very clearly articulate as best we can some of the
exact reasons for shift in certain subsistence areas

1 that are being used.

2

3 So that is pretty much a general
4 overview of what I've been up to and I think it's
5 probably best to leave it for questions and answers.
6 I'm certain you'll have questions after this very short
7 presentation.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Annette.
12 That was real nice and concise. Any questions from the
13 Council on Annette's project.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see anybody
18 wanting to question you. I do think this is important
19 information especially for these communities because
20 this will cross over with this BLM RMP process. A lot
21 of this information -- we were just discussing this
22 issue before you called in. BLM Resource Management
23 Plan will change designation for resource use, whether
24 it's mining or other, effects on subsistence users.

25

26 So it's data like this where people use
27 utilize various resources over time, especially over
28 these various timeframes, is also pretty important for
29 the BLM process, not only the National Park Service's
30 process. Can this data be made available to the BLM?

31

32 MS. WATSON: Yes, absolutely. I have
33 been in discussions with BLM personnel at the request
34 of some of the tribes who also specifically wanted the
35 information to be shared with BLM in their processes.
36 I do know there's been some formal discussions and
37 requests of sharing the spatial data. So certainly
38 once this project is completed and approved by tribes
39 and vetted by the National Park Service, I'm fairly
40 certain it won't be a problem to share the data amongst
41 many other agencies.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Ray, go
44 ahead.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think this is
47 becoming more and more critical because a lot of the
48 elders are passing away that have that knowledge of
49 time depth and so on and it's really critical that

50

1 studies like this be developed because we're going to
2 lose it. You may have contemporary use, which has
3 changed rather dramatically in some cases, but what
4 we're going to lose is the time depth as those elders
5 pass away. I'm glad to see studies like this being
6 conducted. We need to do more to incorporate from the
7 elders that are left that kind of information.

8

9

So I appreciate your work.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. WATSON: Yeah, thank you. And I
will say that some of the other maps that the tribes
will be reviewing will be based on the historic
ethnographic data from the oral tradition. So I have a
couple of maps from the 1850's, for example, that show
resource shift usage that the tribes will check. It's
not just since the 1980's that I'll be able to display
on some of these maps, but it will go pretty far back.
We'll have some interesting time periods to look at as
far as how changes in Alaska have affected changes in
subsistence over time.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you're looking
at historical documents like Hudson Stuck's travels in
the early part of 1905 through 18.

MS. WATSON: Right. Certainly that's
one of the types of explorer and existing missionary
accounts in both regions, yeah.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That sounds like a
real cool project and I know you do good work.

Did you have something to add to this,
Marcy, how the National Park Service is going to use
this information?

MS. OKADA: For the record, my name is
Marcy Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Gates
of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. I'll share a
little bit more about the Ambler Mining District Road
process tomorrow, but we will be utilizing Annette's
report for our economic and environmental analysis.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The Council,
it seems to me, is fully informed on this project and
appreciate your calling in, Annette.

MS. WATSON: I'm sorry I couldn't make

1 it in person.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. You're a busy
4 lady. Okay. And Marcy will complete the National Park
5 Service staff report tomorrow, I think.

6

7 Our coordinator, Zach, is MIA. I'm not
8 sure where he's been this long. He must be hanging on
9 the phone with somebody trying to get Ray a flight or
10 something. He had this predator control sign-on
11 letter, so I need him. This Cora Andros of Kaltag
12 letter, I need him for that. We've covered Annette.
13 Let's see, old business review of the draft RAC, I need
14 him for that.

15

16 Does anybody know where Zach is?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tell him to get in
21 here. He's been gone for an hour and a half, so we
22 need him back in here for some of these things.

23

24 Ray.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I think he
27 is trying to arrange travel tomorrow. I want to go
28 down to Anchorage and see about getting home in a
29 timely manner because of my situation, so he had to
30 arrange a ticket and some other things.

31

32 But I was there at noon when he was
33 discussing some of this, but I don't know if I want to
34 preclude that. I understand Senator Don Sullivan was
35 at the Board of Game meeting today and spoke directly
36 to them. And there is a critical time factor that in
37 Congress they have 60 days to revise or reverse some
38 decision before. Don Young has already bought on board
39 on the House.

40

41 It will be critical to have Senator
42 Sullivan buy onto that and try to get it through the
43 Senate and that revises the predator management
44 program. But there is some time limits there that we
45 need to get something off, I think, from this group in
46 a timely manner to encourage support of that revision.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We get into this
49 Hatch Act, so we can't lobby Congress directly. That's

50

1 something we can't do.

2

3

MS. CLARK: Why not?

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's this Hatch
6 Act and we're an Advisory Committee, so we can't lobby
7 Congress, we can't lobby State government. We work
8 through the Federal Subsistence Board. That's why I
9 need Zach in here. He's got this correspondence or
10 these sign-on letters. I don't know what the sign-on
11 letter says. I've got to have this thing in front of
12 me.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Oh, Zach's pulling in. So we're at
this point in the agenda where we need to look at this
predator control sign-on. Last March there was this 10
Regional Advisory Council meeting in Anchorage. All
Regional Councils for the whole state of Alaska was
there.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife had a proposed
rule to -- the State of Alaska has regulations to allow
harvest of wolves in May and various regulations that
the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided they didn't
like. They proposed a rule that went through the
Federal Register to preclude those State regulations.

This, what Ray is talking about, our
Representative Don Young has gotten it through the U.S.
House to repeal that action. Dan Sullivan has to also
accomplish that and with Murkowski in the Senate and
the President would have to sign on to that also.

But right now we're on this predator
control sign-on letter. Do you have that or is that
somewhere in our packet here, Zach, the sign-on.

MR. STEVENSON: There were 50 copies.
Each RAC member has a copy of the letter and there were
50 copies out front.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I just need a
direction on where that is at.

MR. STEVENSON: Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I didn't see that.

MR. STEVENSON: It's circulating around

1 now.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who promulgated this?

MR. STEVENSON: This was initiated by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council, Mr. Chair. Would you like me to read this into the record?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do.

MR. STEVENSON: The letter is addressed to Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Regarding the published Federal regulations for Alaska National Wildlife Refuges: The Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife and Public Participation and Closure Procedures on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, 81 FR 887.

Dear Chairman Christianson, We, the undersigned Chairs, are writing to you on behalf of our Regional Advisory Councils to provide a statement requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board take the concerns of the Councils regarding the regulations on non-subsistence take of wildlife and public participation and closure procedures on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska to the Secretary of Interior or Secretary and other interested parties.

The Councils' requesting this action of the Board represent subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the [insert Councils here], all of which include extensive Refuge lands.

The Councils were established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, and are chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Councils' Charter establish their authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for the regulations, policies, management plans and other matters related to subsistence use of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Councils also review resource management actions occurring outside the regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to

1 communities served by the Councils. The Councils
2 provide a forum for the expression of opinions and
3 recommendations regarding any matter related to the
4 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the
5 region.

6
7 Included with this letter is a packet
8 of written comments from the Kodiak/Aleutians, Western
9 Interior Alaska, Eastern Interior Alaska, Yukon-
10 Kuskokwim Delta, Bristol Bay, Southcentral Alaska and
11 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
12 that were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service, USFWS, during the call for comments on the
14 proposed regulations. The Councils would like these
15 letters forwarded to the Secretary.

16
17 Turning over to page 2 of the letter.
18 The undersigned believe that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service failed to recognize concerns of the Councils
20 and the impacts of these regulatory actions on rural
21 subsistence opportunities. Therefore we request the
22 Board to relay these concerns to the Secretary of the
23 Interior with a request for the Secretary to withdraw
24 the regulations.

25
26 We appreciate your assistance with this
27 important matter. Please contact the Office of
28 Subsistence Management at (907)786-3888 with any
29 questions.

30
31 Sincerely, Regional Advisory Council
32 Chairs to be determined, cc Subsistence Regional
33 Advisory Councils; Federal Subsistence Board;
34 Interagency Staff Committee; Eugene R. Peltola, Jr.,
35 Assistant Regional Director Office of Subsistence
36 Management; Stewart Cogswell, Acting Deputy Assistant
37 Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management;
38 Carl Johnson, Council Coordination Division Chief,
39 Office of Subsistence Management; and Jill Klein,
40 Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Alaska
41 Department of Fish and Game; administrative record.

42
43 Mr. Chair, the direction, as I
44 understand it, was to share this letter on the record
45 with the Council and provide the Council an opportunity
46 to sign-on to this letter if they so choose. We should
47 note that no changes be made to the letter as it was
48 reviewed and stated explicitly by the Solicitor that it
49 has to remain in this format.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will
4 entertain a motion to be a consigner or sign on to this
5 document.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Ray.

10

11 MR. SIMON: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.

14 Discussion.

15

16 MR. ALEXIE: Question.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Darrel wants
19 to discuss it a little bit. Go ahead, Darrel.

20

21 MR. VENT: We're talking about non-
22 subsistence take of wildlife. Is that in the BLM lands
23 or did they.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be State
26 regulations that would affect State lands, BLM lands,
27 National Park Preserve lands.....

28

29 MR. VENT: Private lands.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Forest Service
32 lands and private lands. So those State regulations
33 have liberal predator harvest regulations, like hunting
34 wolves into May and things like that, that U.S. Fish
35 and Wildlife didn't like. They made a proposed rule.

36

37 Our position or our document from last
38 year was the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee has
39 stated that those are just liberalized harvest
40 regulations that are not predator control. A lot of
41 people want to call them predator control, but the
42 predator harvest is not even achieving the sustained
43 yield. So they're just liberalized harvest
44 regulations.

45

46 U.S. Fish and Wildlife didn't listen to
47 all 10 Regional Councils last spring that were
48 discussing that issue and continued to submit the
49 proposed rule. This letter is basically to retract

50

1 that. So, black and white, to support this letter is
2 to repeal that action by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
3

4 The question is called. Those in favor
5 of being a cosigner and submitting this letter to the
6 Chairman of the Federal Subsistence Board from
7 Kodiak/Aleutians signify by saying aye.
8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
12 sign.
13

14 (No opposing votes)
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous consent to
17 transmit and be co-signor.
18

19 There's a review of letter from Cora
20 Andros from Kaltag. Is that letter in our packets
21 somewhere?
22

23 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, it is.
24

25 MS. CLARK: Jack, I think it's Madros,
26 not Andros.
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.
29

30 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, would you
31 mind if I provided some brief background on that
32 letter.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do.
35

36 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Approximately a month ago I received an email from a
38 gentleman by the name of Ben Stevens with Tanana Chiefs
39 who had indicated to me that Ms. Madros, Cora Madros,
40 of Kaltag had been experiencing some user conflicts in
41 her vicinity on the Kaiyuh and is requesting some
42 action of the Regional Advisory Council to help resolve
43 these concerns.
44

45 I followed up with an email message and
46 a phone call to Mr. Stevens requesting the telephone
47 number for Ms. Madros so that she could address the
48 Board directly as well as the township and range
49 location of the property so that we could determine the
50

1 land ownership surrounding the property itself and have
2 not heard back from Mr. Stevens. That brings you
3 present.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. I'll
8 read it for the record. Dear Mr. Stevens, I'm not
9 quite sure if this is the department to contact in
10 person. This past fall 2016 hunting season local
11 residents, Earl Esmailka and Justin Esmailka and other
12 family members who are employed by a company in
13 Fairbanks guided hunting brought hunters to Kaltag.
14 This was brought up as a residential concern to the
15 Kaltag Tribal Council and the chief is the one to bring
16 the hunters in and nothing was done.

17
18 The residents and Native people of
19 Kaltag are concerned with outside game hunters being
20 brought to our local hunting area surrounding Kaltag.
21 Local residents hunt, fish and trap a 22-mile area.
22 This land is our ancestral land and this is a great
23 concern to the village and what do we need to do to
24 stop this.

25
26 The Board should meet in Kaltag and
27 listen to the concerns in regards to this issue. Why
28 bring them to our area. The Esmailka family has a
29 cabin in the Kaiyuh area. Why don't they bring them on
30 their own land and hunting area. Please let me know
31 who to contact and how we can stop this.

32
33 So I have to look at this map of where
34 Kaltag is actually at. So there's a lot of Native
35 corporation lands, the white area. The yellow is the
36 BLM land and the checkerboard is the Innoko Kaiyuh
37 Flats, so 21D.

38
39 Fred is from Kaltag.

40
41 MR. ALEXIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this Council can
44 make recommendations on seasons and bag limits on
45 Federal public lands. Guiding and sport hunting and
46 all that falls under State regulations. So the white
47 areas and the BLM lands are basically unregulated
48 guiding areas unless the -- I suppose those white areas
49 are Doyon land around Kaltag.

50

1 MR. VENT: They're considered private.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the guides would
4 be excluded from guiding on those Doyon lands if
5 they're specifically posted or notified. The tribe
6 gets a hold of Doyon and tells them to contact those
7 guides and specifically tell them they're not allowed
8 to guide on the Doyon lands. They can't guide there.

9
10 They also should be posted, but as far
11 as I know under trespass if a commercial entity is
12 actually notified in person that my lands are -- like
13 if I go to your property and say can I walk across your
14 land, the guy goes no. You're in somebody's yard in
15 Anchorage and he says, no, you can't. He can call the
16 cops if he told you not to go there.

17
18 But this Council does not regulate
19 sport hunting, so we can't any -- we can tell the
20 recourse. But Mr. Ben Stevens had directed her to
21 contact us, but Ben should know, because he teaches
22 courses, that this Council does not have that
23 authority, so I question what he actually teaches in
24 his courses. He needs to go back to school again.

25
26 So I do feel she has recourse by
27 approaching Doyon. Doyon and the tribe of Kaltag needs
28 to get a hold of Doyon and say these entities are
29 guiding on our Doyon lands. We need to have you
30 contact the realtor department and tell them to stop
31 that.

32
33 Now I want to hear from Fred and
34 Darrel.

35
36 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair. I really thing
37 that Ben Stevens should handle the issue rather than
38 pushing it on to our board. It's not fair. We're
39 putting ourselves on the chopping block for future
40 complaints from any hunter or any village. If we did
41 that at our meeting, we're not going to accomplish some
42 of the items we've got on our agenda because we'd be
43 fighting with locals, local hunters, local villages.

44
45 Furthermore, Kaiyuh is a National
46 Refuge hunting. It's a big area. Once you take off
47 out of 22 mile out of -- downriver from Kaltag you go
48 automatically to Kaiyuh.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got Jeremy
2 Havener coming up here. Is there a guide use permit in
3 that Kaiyuh Flats?

4
5 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
6 Council Members. Again, for the record, my name is
7 Jeremy Havener, the subsistence coordinator at
8 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. That
9 area is a guide use area and we do not have anybody
10 that has the rights to that.

11
12 As you guys all probably know, there's
13 a prospectus that guides have to go through to get the
14 rights to guide in certain areas on Refuges. It's a
15 competitive process and it has to be done every 10
16 years and renewed every five and we have not filled
17 that one.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has any of these
20 named entities applied for that area?

21
22 MR. HAVENER: I do not have knowledge
23 on that one. I apologize.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I want to address
26 Cora. I would like to respond to her by letter and say
27 this Council does not have the authority to control
28 guiding on the corp lands, but that she should contact
29 Doyon, who does have the authority to close those lands
30 specifically to those entities that she's naming, that
31 they were told you cannot guide on these Doyon lands.
32 You can guide on the BLM lands. You can't guide on the
33 Doyon lands.

34
35 That's what we're trying to get the BLM
36 to do is come up with guide use areas so that they are
37 going to limit the number of guides. Like all those
38 BLM yellow lands there, those could have an unlimited
39 amount of guides on those.

40
41 So this Council should transmit a
42 letter to Cora to inform her that this Council does not
43 have authority to control guiding
44 in any way, sport hunting, but the main lands that are
45 associated to the river corridor are primarily Doyon
46 lands. The Refuge does not have a guide use permit in
47 the Kaiyuh Flats.

48
49 MR. ALEXIE: Is that written law

50

1 someplace, Mr. Chair?

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The corporations can
4 close their lands and they do. They do it in the
5 newspaper all the time. But if there's nobody
6 enforcing it, then Doyon -- this person, Cora, can
7 contact Doyon and say these hunters are guiding in a 22
8 mile area of our Kaltag Doyon lands and on our village
9 corp lands and we don't want to see that. We want you
10 to specifically tell them not to guide here. Then they
11 have legal recourse. If she sees them guiding there
12 still, then she can call the troopers or somebody to
13 get that enforced. I'm not an attorney, but that's
14 what I think.

15
16 MS. MAAS: Thank you. Lisa Maas for
17 the record. Just a clarification on the map. The
18 colored areas are Federal land and the white areas are
19 non-Federal land, so it could be State. I mean there
20 could be State land, I'm not for sure, but I'm just
21 saying it's not necessarily just Native land or
22 corporation land.

23
24 Thanks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach.

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: As I stated previously
29 on the record -- thank you, Mr. Chair. As I stated
30 previously on the record, I had requested that Mr.
31 Stevens put us in contact with the landowner to get
32 some specification from her on exactly where her land
33 was located and I also had requested of Mr. Stevens the
34 coordinates for her location, which unfortunately we
35 don't have. What is evident to me is that we're
36 essentially not dealing with Federal public lands here.

37
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She's basically
41 referring to a 22-mile area, like this radius. Usually
42 around -- I don't have the land status specifically,
43 but usually lands really close to a village like that
44 are under village corp lands or Doyon.

45
46 MR. ALEXIE: Most of those are village
47 corporation lands.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm just

50

1 guessing, but I'm pretty sure that Doyon can address
2 this issue, but we cannot. And I want her to know that
3 and I would also like Ben Stevens cc'd that this
4 Council does not have an authority to control sport
5 hunting on anything in general. We can make comments
6 on guide use areas and so forth, but as far as private
7 lands this Council has no authority on State or private
8 lands period. Those are under State authority.

9
10 MR. ALEXIE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Stevens is
11 in charge -- coordinator for hunting and fishing task
12 force. So that's his job.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's supposed to
15 know this stuff.

16
17 MR. ALEXIE: I'll tell him so.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's not supposed to
22 be siccing people on us when he knows that we do not
23 have that authority. He should know all of the ins and
24 outs. He wants to teach classes. He better go back to
25 school. He better pick up ANILCA and read what it
26 says.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MR. VENT: Just because it says U.S.
31 Fish and Game.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This has eaten 15,
34 20 minutes of our time that we did not have to really
35 deal with. So the Chair will entertain a motion to
36 transmit a letter to Cora Madros describing her
37 recourse with Doyon to get Doyon to close those lands
38 specifically to the guiding entities that she would
39 like controlled and I want that cc'd to Ben Stevens at
40 TCC.

41
42 MR. VENT: This might be a village
43 corporation land matter with them that's not Doyon.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And village corp.

46
47 MR. VENT: Yeah. So maybe they have to
48 address it at that level.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The two entities,
2 the village corp and Doyon.

3
4 MR. VENT: That's correct.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
7 clarification. Appreciate that, Darrel.

8
9 MS. PELKOLA: Jack.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

12
13 MS. PELKOLA: I think maybe we should
14 just send this letter back to Ben Stevens and tell him
15 to handle it because.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm concerned that
18 he won't handle it correctly.

19
20 MS. PELKOLA: But she didn't even
21 mention us in here.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She addressed this
24 to the Western Interior Council -- well, she's
25 addressing it to Mr. Stevens, but this was referred to
26 us at the WIRAC and I want it transmitted back directly
27 to her with a cc to Ben Stevens because I don't
28 actually trust that he's going to tell her the right
29 thing. I
30 don't want word of mouth.

31
32 Jeremy.

33
34 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. One
35 thing I want to mention and you were talking about this
36 earlier with law enforcement. If somebody does see
37 somebody guiding in that area on Refuge lands, it would
38 be advisable to give us a call as soon as possible.
39 That way we could take action.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that. So
44 do we have a motion to transmit a letter to Cora giving
45 her recourse for Doyon and Native corp lands and cc for
46 Ben Stevens.

47
48 MR. VENT: Yes, I make the motion.
49 This is Darrel.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Darrel
2 motions.

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.
7 Any further discussion.

8
9 MS. CLARK: I see it's going to be my
10 problem next. They'll move down to Grayling.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can do the same
13 thing.

14
15 MS. CLARK: I'm going to.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you've got the
20 same recourse, so you're aware of what to do.

21
22 MR. VENT: Yeah, we're already aware of
23 the problem up in Kaltag.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further discussion.

26
27 MR. SIMON: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
30 called. Those in favor of transmitting that letter
31 signify by saying aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we covered the
40 Annette Wilson thing while you were out in the hall, so
41 that's off the chart.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Review and draft of
46 the RAC correspondence letters. That's in our.....

47
48 MR. STEVENSON: Let me just make a.....

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,
2 Zach.

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 I apologize for having to step out of the room
6 momentarily. I'm attempting to get Collins' flight
7 resolved and that's becoming increasingly challenging
8 given some constraints we have with the airline.

9
10 With regards to the correspondence from
11 Ms. Watson, I had just requested her to share that
12 information given that it appears that that project is
13 in its early stages and my hope was that as that
14 project moved forward that if there was interest from
15 the Council that she could continue to provide updates
16 so the Council could be aware of how that's proceeding.
17 I wasn't sure if she had mentioned that in her
18 discussion.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She gave us an
23 overview, but we would like additional updates as her
24 project is still in progress.

25
26 MR. STEVENSON: Right. Noted.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Our correspondence
31 is in the blue folder here or in the back of our book?

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. There was
34 only one correspondence item that I felt needed some
35 clarification. At our October meeting in McGrath
36 Member Collins had mentioned that there was some
37 interest in submitting a letter to the State of Alaska
38 regarding the Salmon Bycatch Plan. I was unclear
39 whether or not the interest in that letter was to
40 obtain an update on the status of that plan or whether
41 there was a specific action that was wanted of the
42 State. I'm wondering if you may be able to clarify
43 what was needed so that we can determine what action is
44 appropriate on that correspondence item.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

49
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Yeah, the purpose of that item was because of what the
3 State had previously said that their strategy for
4 dealing with the low king salmon stock was to create
5 and conduct a bunch of research and fund a bunch of
6 research programs to evaluate what the problems were
7 and then after that research was complete then use the
8 information to develop a recovery program, but then
9 over the course of a couple years, with the State's
10 finances being reduced, most of that research was
11 stopped. So that effectively stops the Salmon Recovery
12 Program as it was defined back during the Parnell
13 administration.

14
15 So I wanted to contact the Governor's
16 Office and Commissioner Cotten and ask them and/or
17 suggest to them some -- ask them if they had any plans
18 to -- they were going to incur since the research was
19 effectively stopped and then if we, as a Council, had
20 some recommendations of things that could be done to
21 help with the salmon recovery now that we realize we
22 have a different environment where we have less State
23 money available to assist with the Salmon Recovery
24 Program.

25
26 So I would propose to the Council today
27 -- I'm interested to hear if anybody has any strategies
28 that we could include in the letter and I could also
29 create a draft of such a letter and read it over at
30 some point tomorrow and see if it fits in with the
31 wishes of the council to forward that on to Governor
32 Walker and Commissioner Cotten.

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. The
35 question that was raised, if I understand correctly, is
36 are we running into any concerns regarding the Hatch
37 Act?

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: I'm thinking aloud, Mr.
42 Chair. I'm aware that one option the RAC could use is
43 to have a letter directed to -- the Council could
44 prepare a letter directed to the Federal Subsistence
45 Board requesting, in this case, that the Governor's
46 Office provide an update on the status of the State
47 Salmon Recovery Plan, it's funding prospects and some
48 guidance as to how perhaps the RAC may be able to
49 assist in moving some of those objectives forward given
50

1 the given the constraints that the State is maybe
2 facing. That could be one option.

3

4 It may be helpful to get some
5 clarification though on exactly what it is we, the RAC,
6 would like.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment,
11 Fred, on our discussion?

12

13 MR. BUE: (Shakes head negatively).

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't want to go
16 there?

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you start getting
21 a hold of the governor, you start getting wound into
22 these legal things. So this Council can contact --
23 would the primary entity be Commercial Fish Division,
24 the primary investigator of the Salmon Recovery
25 Program? Would that be correct?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody on the
30 phone? Do we have any State people on the phone?

31

32 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Jill.

35

36 MS. KLEIN: Hi. Yeah, I'm trying to
37 understand specifically what you're interested in. If
38 it was the Chinook Salmon Research Initiative Funding
39 that had been looking at statewide chinook declines and
40 what was done with that funding or you're interested in
41 possibly other projects and research that the State
42 might be doing, but then there was also the talk of
43 salmon bycatch, so I didn't know if that was an issue
44 for the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council that
45 you wanted to address.

46

47 So I'm sorry if I didn't follow at all,
48 but those are some of my follow-up questions.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Tim Gervais
2 is going to restate what is specific as to the effects
3 of the current management on the salmon recovery. Go
4 ahead, Tim.

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, it is the Chinook
7 Salmon Research Initiative that I'm talking about. And
8 so I'm looking at a Fish and Game website right now.
9 So they had this research symposium in October 2012 to
10 identify key knowledge gaps and assemble a list of
11 research priorities. And then in subsequent years
12 after that we, as a Council, were hearing different
13 reports on different research projects that were going
14 on regarding that Chinook Salmon Research Initiative.

15
16 And then most, if not all, of the
17 projects we were getting reports on stopped getting
18 funded, so it seems as though that Chinook Salmon
19 Research Initiative stopped. If that's just the
20 reality that there's not enough money available to
21 conduct that kind of research, I was wondering if the
22 Department of Fish and Game had any new strategies to
23 deal with the issue of king salmon recovery beyond what
24 we deal with on an ongoing basis with in-season
25 management.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any idea
28 how this Council would address that, Jill?

29
30 MS. KLEIN: Thanks, Tim, for clarifying
31 that. Through the Chair. Yeah, I think those are good
32 questions and I just searched my email records and I
33 think we may have had some similar conversations about
34 this in the past with the Council as well related to
35 the Chinook Salmon Research Initiative Fund.

36
37 I don't know that I can answer these
38 questions now. If you wanted to put that into a
39 letter, that would go to the Department and if you're
40 just curious for your region, then maybe you could
41 focus it specifically to the AYK Region and that staff
42 specifically or it could be written as a general letter
43 to the Department, to the Commissioner or Director of
44 Commercial Fisheries and Subsistence Division and even
45 Sport Fisheries. They're all doing work that might be
46 related to chinook salmon and chinook salmon declines
47 or other species declines as well and ask for
48 information about it and possibly an update at your
49 next meeting during the agency reports or if it can fit
50

1 into a specific agenda item as an option too.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think we
4 can try a letter to the Commissioner/Director of
5 Fisheries with the request for the information that
6 you're wanting in a letter form. I don't think we can
7 go directly to the governor. The politician part of it
8 I get gun shy of. So I think the Commissioner and the
9 Director of CommFish for AYK I think we can go there,
10 Tim.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

You have a comment.

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. My comment has
fallen into an item we're going to be discussing later
on in this meeting. So from 2012 where \$30 million was
proposed for funding all this research and then within
two years a lot of that funding was not available. And
then we went into this other pattern where we had like
in that AYK Board of Fish cycle. We have Department of
Fish and Game writing propositions allowing beach
seines, specifying aggregate length for set gillnet
gear, defining commercial beach seine specifications.
And all that stuff passed, which is all contrary to
supporting king salmon recovery.

And then there was some non-Fish and
Game actions or proposals put out by Kwik'Pak for
extending commercial fishing in District 1 from one
mile out to three miles and establish a directed pink
salmon fishery. All these said proposals passed
unanimously by the Board of Fish in January of 2016.

So I want this Council to be aware we
had this era 2012-2013 where we were really focused on
reconstructing the king salmon runs and then the
funding dropped off and now we have a bunch of actual
actions taken by Department of Fish and Game and the
Board of Fish that were contrary to the objective of
supporting stock reconstruction or stock rebuilding.
Maybe reconstruction is not the correct term.

So I wanted this Council to address
Fish and Game, which could be done through Director of
Commercial Fisheries or through Commissioner Cotten to
say, hey, this is still a major issue for us, we still
want these king salmon stocks to be rebuilt and we
don't want to have the research and management to meet
those goals to be forgotten.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, you delineated
2 a fairly clear request for an analysis of current Board
3 of Fish management actions that may be negatively
4 affecting chinook salmon recovery and we feel that the
5 Department needs to analyze what those effects of
6 catching and releasing chinook salmon and through --
7 what they really should be looking at is net marks at
8 Pilot Station and other places where they do these
9 indices to find out how much contact the remaining
10 salmon have had with various gear types, whether it's
11 dipnets, fishwheels and various things like that.

12
13 Tim.

14
15 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So we're getting a
16 little spread out here. The initial item that Zach
17 brought up was he was trying to fill this letter that
18 we were going to transmit regarding if the Department
19 of Fish and Game or Commissioner Cotten if there was
20 any other programs that were put into place or any
21 strategies that were taken up as it became apparent
22 that the Chinook Salmon Research Initiative was not
23 going to be able to be funded and
24 that program was effectively not going to occur or be
25 completed.

26
27 So we went from this phase where the
28 State was saying, okay, this is how we're going to work
29 on our chinook salmon. We're going to start with a
30 broad expensive research program and figure out as much
31 information as we can and then that didn't happen. We
32 still have trouble with our king salmon stocks and we
33 want to find out if there's a different strategy that's
34 going to be worked that doesn't involve the Chinook
35 Salmon Research Initiative, but something that can be
36 done with less funding and less research.

37
38 I mean it was kind of like a promise
39 that the Governor's Office made to the people of Alaska
40 that we're going to figure out what's going on with the
41 king salmon and then that didn't happen, so I want this
42 Council to ask, well, if that didn't happen, what's
43 going to happen.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What you would like
46 us to ask, and I agree, is we want to know what avenues
47 the Department has delineated that will fund chinook
48 salmon recovery. Are there Federal funding programs.
49 We still want to see chinook salmon

50

1 recovery on the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages.
2 Not just Yukon, but also the Kuskokwim River drainages.
3
4

5 So the premise of your letter is clear.
6 I would like you to work with Zach, put out the main
7 bullets of what you would like, but the premise of this
8 letter is requesting that the Salmon Initiative is not
9 forgotten, that the management actions that the Board
10 of Fish has taken may be negatively affecting the
11 chinook salmon recovery and we want to know what the
12 Department's plan is for this Salmon Initiative.
13 That's the main thing that you're asking.
14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Uh-huh.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if you'll make a
18 motion to that effect. So I would like you to work
19 with Zach on coming up with a rough draft, have him
20 type it up, you review it again, think about what
21 really needs to be fine-tuned, but that's the main
22 premise of this letter.
23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So moved.
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach is not here to
27 take notes. Zach will look at this transcript and work
28 with Tim on developing this letter to Alaska Department
29 of Fish and Game, Commissioner Sam Cotten and Director
30 of Fisheries on the questions we have regarding how the
31 Salmon Initiative is going to continue.
32

33 Do we have a second to that.
34

35 MR. SIMON: Second.
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
38 Further discussion.
39

40 MR. VENT: Question.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
43 called by Darrel. Those in favor of transmitting that
44 letter to the Commissioner of Fish and Game and the
45 Director of Fisheries and of course cc'd to the Federal
46 Subsistence Board signify by saying aye.
47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Unanimous. Now
7 we're in call for wildlife proposals. Right now we
8 don't how long that call is going to go because, as
9 Lisa told us and Zach, there's a stay by Presidential
10 Order on publishing anything in the Federal Register.
11 Hopefully that's alleviated sooner rather than later,
12 otherwise we won't be able to get any kind of proposals
13 into the Federal system. But we do need to make our
14 submissions.

15
16 Are there wildlife proposals that
17 Council Members would like to propose? I have one
18 proposal myself. I'm looking around the room here.
19 Wildlife proposals.

20
21 Darrel.

22
23 MR. VENT: Some of the proposals they
24 went through in the State for caribou, I'd like us to
25 kind of look at all this because it's all dealing with
26 numbers and percentage, we're not really getting
27 through to the State on what we should -- you know,
28 address some problems in there.

29
30 And I see some issues with what they
31 call amount necessary for subsistence. There's a total
32 number they use to hunt and then amount necessary for
33 subsistence and the rest is so you can have enough to
34 go around for the year. Well, it seems like those
35 numbers are not really being followed. We talked about
36 this before with maximum yield and sustained yield. A
37 lot of times they're operating at maximum yield. We've
38 been trying to address that problem for a while. I
39 know it's been a tough issue.

40
41 I just want to state that this is some
42 of the issues that's concerning me because we need to
43 manage these caribou herds and we're not doing it in a
44 friendly way for -- which the villages depend on these
45 wildlife. They depend on it because about 80 percent of
46 their population is unemployed and they have to have
47 the subsistence, whereas a person coming in from the
48 city they can rely on the stores. We can't rely on
49 stores as much as they could because the costs are high
50

1 in the villages and there's no employment.

2

3 So I just wanted to state that for the
4 record that these are issues that concern me. I don't
5 want to see our people hurting. I guess they are
6 hurting now, but, you know, get any worse in the way
7 the situation is going. We need to try to get some
8 regulations in there to understand from their point of
9 view that this is something that's detrimental.

10

11 This could affect their livelihood
12 because we have no jurisdiction on predator management
13 on Federal lands. That's one of the issues. That is
14 something that we should address in a proposal to let
15 the Feds know that this is really affecting our people
16 there in our areas because we have no management for
17 the predators. We need to address that.

18

19 That's some of the stuff that I wanted
20 to say. There's some other issues, but I could bring
21 it up at a different time concerning the presentation
22 that came before you guys when I was trying to address
23 some problems, but my phone started dying and I
24 couldn't do anything after that.

25

26 Thanks.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel. The
29 ANS proposal, the Board of Game is going to review that
30 proposal. They are on a three year cycle. As I told
31 the board members individually yesterday and I stated
32 before this Council in the recommendation RC-9 that we
33 reviewed, there's need for a future management.

34

35 Right now the whole Western Arctic,
36 Teshekpuk and Central Arctic have such a mismatched
37 bunch of regulations. Some is cow caribou are open on
38 July 1, some is open on September 1. It's all over the
39 map. Caribou are caribou. Cow caribou -- you don't
40 shoot bulls basically after the first of October. The
41 Board wanted the 10th of October. Basically you don't
42 shoot bull caribou in the wintertime until February
43 when they start to recover. Late January, early
44 February. And then you really shouldn't be shooting
45 those cows, especially at these low populations.

46

47 So the seasons in all the Game
48 Management Units 22, 23, 26A and B, 25A West, 24, 21D
49 within the range of those caribou herd, Teshekpuk,

50

1 Central Arctic should have uniform regulations. The
2 main reason I would like to see cow seasons not open in
3 the fall is because cows lead migrations. When cow
4 caribou get shot up on the front end, that deflects
5 those migrations. That can affect people downrange of
6 that herd. If they're moving towards Huslia and they
7 get shot up and move west way over into the Seward
8 Peninsula, that really affects people downrange.

9
10 So I would like to submit a proposal
11 that reflects those seasons, cows open from October 1
12 to February 1, bulls open from February 1 to October
13 1. That's what I would like to propose for all Game
14 Management Units on Federal lands and I would also
15 simultaneously like this Council to request an agenda
16 change by the Board of Game to entertain a proposal of
17 the same thing.

18
19 If we can get both the State and the
20 Federal government to do that, it will make a big
21 headway on protecting cows when they're calving during
22 migration. I don't care where you're at on the range,
23 whether it's winter or summer, those are the principles
24 of harvesting caribou. In the summertime when they're
25 on the summer range way up against the Arctic Ocean
26 coast, nobody needs to be shooting cow caribou out
27 there on the Arctic Ocean coastline. There are lots of
28 fat bull caribou in the summertime. They're a really
29 nice-eating animal.

30
31 You don't want to shoot cows and there
32 should be no cow harvest, no harassing cows, no messing
33 with those cows until they're good in early October.
34 They quit lactating, they're fat, their breeding. The
35 bulls are no good at that time of the year. That's
36 when you harvest cows in the wintertime. They've
37 already migrated. You don't bother them when they're
38 migrating north and you don't bother them when they're
39 migrating south. It's a real easy proposal.

40
41 So either this Council can submit that
42 proposal with a basic principle for GMU 21D, which is
43 where the Western Arctic Caribou Herd moves into 21D,
44 22, 23, 24, 25A West and then 26 A and B. That entails
45 the entire ranges of the Western Arctic, Teshekpuk and
46 Central Arctic Caribou. Those caribou populations
47 should all have the same seasons for bulls and cows.
48 The seasons would be as I stated, October 1 to February
49 1 for cow harvest and bull harvest would be from

50

1 February 1 to October 1 or October 10. There was a lot
2 of people in the Board of Game process to maintain some
3 bull harvest up and through the 10th of October.

4
5 I think we should put it on the table.
6 I think the Councils -- after this meeting I would like
7 to teleconference with the other Regional Advisory
8 Councils Northwest Arctic, North Slope, Seward Pen and
9 WIRAC.

10
11 MR. VENT: Also I think we should
12 include the Central Arctic.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eastern Interior.

15
16 MR. VENT: Eastern, which would consist
17 of the Central Arctic Caribou and the Porcupine. That
18 does not affect our area, but.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's outside
21 of the discussion area. The Porcupine Herd is a
22 growing caribou population. We don't want to muddy the
23 waters.

24
25 MR. VENT: That's correct. I just
26 wanted to state the reason why that's a growing herd is
27 because the Natives got together with the State and
28 also on the Canada side. They've been working
29 together, so it could be done in our area. It's just
30 that we have to learn how to work together on this and
31 get this population back up.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right now the
34 Western Arctic, Teshekpuk and Central Arctic are
35 generally below 50 percent, 50 percent or below what
36 they were 10 years ago. Central Arctic since 2010, in
37 six years fell 60 percent or more. So there needs to
38 be consistent regulations which makes it easy for all
39 the subsistence users. We know caribou season for cows
40 is open on October 1, it closes on February 1. It
41 doesn't matter where you're at.

42
43 The principles are the same throughout
44 the ranges of these caribou. It's a real easy
45 proposal. We'll make it as a Federal proposal with the
46 caveat that there will be a special action request sent
47 to the Board of Game with the same proposal dates and
48 try to get the Board of Game to open it up. I think
49 this Board would actually do that. This Board is

50

1 changing. This Board is getting quite a bit better
2 than it was in 2010.

3
4 2010 the Board of Game was at a low
5 point. When the chairman of the Game Board sits there
6 and says we're coming down to the end of the day and I
7 really hate listening to all these public comments, I
8 just about fell off my chair. That's what the Board of
9 Game is supposed to do is listen to the public
10 comments. That was the low point of the Board of Game.
11 The current Board is getting better and better. So I
12 think this Board would actually work with the Federal
13 system.

14
15 They sat before the Federal Subsistence
16 Board and were talking about caribou management issues
17 this winter in January. This Board wants to work with
18 the Federal Subsistence Board and I think a special
19 action -- or an agenda change request -- we call them
20 special action requests on the Federal side and they
21 call them agenda change request on the State side.

22
23 The Chair will entertain a motion to
24 submit a wildlife proposal for Game Management Units
25 21D, 22, 23, 24, 25A West, 26A and B for the cow
26 caribou season October 1 to February 1 and the bull
27 season from February 1 to October 1 or October 10. Do
28 I have a motion to that effect.

29
30 MR. VENT: This is Darrel. I make a
31 motion for that and also that we get periodic reviews
32 of any changes that's happening out there.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we do want
35 current data on these herds. As new information comes
36 current, Mulchatna, Western Arctic, Teshekpuk, Central
37 Arctic, we want to be apprised of that at every
38 meeting. Also with the agenda change request of the
39 Board of Game to submit the same proposal to the Board
40 of Game. So Darrel motioned.

41
42 MS. CLARK: I'll second.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Shirley.
45 Any further discussion. This will put it on the table
46 for the Western Arctic Caribou Workgroup. It will put
47 it on the table for all the Regional Councils and it
48 will put it on the table for all the Advisory
49 Committees.

50

1 Pollock.

2
3 MR. SIMON: I just want to make a
4 comment. The caribou population is declining so there
5 has to be a reduction in the take of caribou and here
6 again subsistence users are being cut back from taking
7 what they usually take, but the bears and wolves take a
8 lot of this caribou. The State and the Feds could do
9 well by killing some of the bears and wolves.

10
11 The same thing with the fish. The high
12 sea fishermen, the bycatch, they can't keep the king
13 salmon when the season is closed. They can't keep it,
14 they can't sell it, so they throw it back in the river.
15 Here again we in the villages as subsistence users are
16 being cut back from taking king salmon. Here again not
17 very fair regulations.

18
19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.
22 When the State Board of Game members were before the
23 Federal Subsistence Board they were talking about some
24 predator reductions in Unit 23, but there's been
25 nothing so far. That Board of Game has that authority.
26 The Federal Subsistence Board does not have any
27 predator control programs at all. That doesn't happen
28 under the Federal program. The Board of Game is the
29 one who liberalizes predator harvest seasons and bag
30 limits and also can implement intensive management
31 under the Intensive Management Statute. So the Federal
32 Subsistence Board does not do that.

33
34 This proposal here would help the cow
35 caribou out, it will help -- if it was a State season,
36 it would eliminate a lot of the fly-in hunters that get
37 in front of those caribou herds when they're migrating.
38 They wouldn't be allowed to harvest cow caribou.

39
40 The main user conflict in the Kobuk is
41 drop-off hunters getting in the front of caribou herds
42 with a five-caribou bag limit and shooting cow caribou
43 for cat meat. Here comes a bunch of cow caribou, let's
44 shoot one of them. Let's shoot this one right out in
45 front. You just shot the leader. That's how these
46 deflections happen. It starts a chain reaction of
47 moving these caribou in other directions.

48
49 You get a whole bunch of hunters in one

50

1 valley shooting up all the cow caribou that come into
2 that valley it starts to move that herd around. It's
3 not a little deal. It's a big deal. In Anaktuvuk Pass
4 the elders are on the Facebook, on the radio constantly
5 telling those young guys you don't go out in front of
6 this village.

7
8 This fall there was a bunch of caribou,
9 Teshekpuk Caribou, coming up to Anaktuvuk Pass. Those
10 elders were on Facebook all the time telling them don't
11 shoot one of those caribou until they pass by. When
12 they got cow caribou moved past, then they started
13 harvesting. They got all the caribou they wanted.
14 They killed a lot of fat bull caribou like that. They
15 had really nice meat because the elders told them not
16 to shoot any of them.

17
18 We have to have it in regulation
19 because apparently there's not a lot of sport hunters
20 that understand these things.

21
22 So we're under discussion. That would
23 be the justification for this proposal. You've got
24 another comment there, Darrel.

25
26 MR. VENT: You brought up a point there
27 that I think we have to realize that this hunter
28 education has to be done with these sport hunters.
29 They need to know that. We always understood this. If
30 you bother the front of the herd, it could change the
31 whole situation where herds will be following other
32 herds and you'll have a deflection because they won't
33 want to go the same way, they know they're going to get
34 hit hard there and they're afraid of that. They get
35 gun shy and that's what happens.

36
37 You see some other herds they're
38 talking about, they're saying there's different caribou
39 in there. That's what happened. They shot the front of
40 the herd. So that's why you got the deflection. We
41 noticed that when we didn't get caribou in our area,
42 around the Nome area, Teller area, they got a lot of
43 caribou over there because of the deflection. They
44 shot the front of the herd.

45
46 That's something that's really critical
47 that people got to understand that. We need them to
48 know. There's got to be some kind of education out
49 there so they don't do that. As we're told as young
50

1 kids that you can't do that to them.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's a
4 straight-up proposal. I would like to have a
5 teleconference. I'd like OSM to provide a
6 teleconference with Regional Council Members to call in
7 to the conference from Seward Pen, Northwest Arctic,
8 North Slope, WIRAC and EIRAC. At least the leadership
9 of EIRAC. We'll get Council Members on all the
10 Councils that don't feel like calling in, but there
11 should be a discussion provided to let the Councils
12 talk this issue through, what this proposal is and what
13 the justifications are.

14

15 I would like to bring cohesion to the
16 Councils. I don't want a sit-down meeting because it's
17 a heck of a lot of time involved. We don't need to do
18 that. We just need a teleconference. It's cost
19 effective. That would be a follow up to this proposal.

20

21 Right now the proposal is on the table.
22 Any further discussion.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. SIMON: Call for the question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
29 called. Those in favor of submitting a wildlife
30 proposal regarding caribou seasons in the Northwest
31 portion of Alaska signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
36 sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Passes. Any other.
41 Go ahead, Darrel.

42

43 MR. VENT: I got one that this has to
44 be coming up for discussion now. We discussed this at
45 the State Board of Game meeting and it has to deal with
46 land into trust. I think it has some issues concerning
47 BLM land, private land, State land. I imagine it will
48 probably come up in one of our discussions and if we
49 don't know anything about it, that would be kind of

50

1 unfair for people because we don't have any
2 information.

3
4 If it comes in the next meeting cycle,
5 if we had someone to explain to us about land into
6 trust, that would be something that I would like to
7 see.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bringing that up,
10 yeah, I do want to see that. I would like to
11 understand that more what that actually means for the
12 Federal Subsistence Program at least for the entire
13 Council. Any other Federal wildlife proposals that
14 Council members can bring up for consideration.

15
16 You can also -- if you go home and you
17 come up with a burning issue when we're not meeting,
18 you can submit the proposal. We will be reviewing any
19 proposals in the fall cycle and we can sign on to them
20 at that time.

21
22 MR. VENT: Just one thing is that, you
23 know, these predators, we need to bring this up in
24 discussion with the Federal government somehow because
25 we are having issues with predators. I think we
26 brought it to them before and they voted that they
27 didn't have anything to do with predators, but it's
28 tying our hands because we have animals that are having
29 a high mortality rate with calves or that we can't take
30 care of the problem because it's on Federal lands. I'm
31 kind of concerned about that and I think that we need
32 to discuss this issue more with the Federal government.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This predator
35 control issue with the Federal Subsistence Board has
36 been going on since day 1 with this Regional Council.
37 I remember long ago. Basically the Office of
38 Subsistence Management does not -- the Board has
39 refused to do any kind of predator control projects.
40 They rely on the State of Alaska to take the brunt of
41 that.

42
43 I think the Federal Subsistence Board
44 has heard a lot of discussion on this proposed rule by
45 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National
46 Park Service. They've heard a lot on that issue.
47 They're well aware that these Regional Councils -- the
48 last spring meeting there was a lot of discussion. I
49 could hardly stop all 10 Councils from talking about
50

1 predator control. They wanted to talk about it all day
2 and we had a lot of agenda to go through. So I'm sure
3 the Federal Subsistence Board is well aware of the
4 sentiments of the Regional Advisory Councils.

5
6 We're under call for Federal proposals
7 right now. So I would like to give full opportunity to
8 the Council to develop ideas.

9
10 Shirley.

11
12 MS. CLARK: What's the timeline? When
13 I bring this home to Grayling, there probably will be
14 some.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right now, because
17 the President has a stay on publishing anything in the
18 Federal Register, we don't know when the call is, but
19 Lisa says we should have at least 45 days.

20
21 MS. MAAS: Yeah, don't quote me on
22 that, but it's at least 45 days.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At least 45 days.

25
26 MS. CLARK: More than a week.

27
28 MS. MAAS: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you hear about
31 the President lifting the stay on publishing in the
32 Federal Register, you can start counting from around 45
33 to 60 days from that point. But if you go home and
34 think of a proposal, you can send that in to OSM,
35 Office of Subsistence Manager, and they'll throw it
36 into the hopper, as our proposal just went in. You
37 wouldn't think there would be very many proposals, but
38 eventually you get the proposal book and here's a lot
39 of different proposals. It's just inherent with this
40 program and the State.

41
42 It would be nice if Zach was back here.
43 I think we've covered the Federal wildlife proposals.
44 We're on our annual report and I pretty much need Zach
45 here for that. The annual report is an important part
46 of this. It's actually required under 805 of ANILCA
47 for the Regional Councils to make an annual report to
48 the Secretary and the Federal Subsistence Board is the
49 arm of the Secretaries. So it's a report of various

50

1 problems and issues and we've been accumulating a list.

2

3 Another issue that I would like to see
4 put into the annual report is -- OSM makes comments to
5 the Board of Game and to the Board of Fish. Those
6 comments may or may not reflect the positions of the
7 Regional Councils. I think OSM has been working
8 somewhat outside of the deference to the Regional
9 Advisory Councils, so I feel that the -- I want to
10 bring it up to the Federal Subsistence Board that
11 Office of Subsistence Management should at least bring
12 comments to the affected Regional Advisory Councils
13 regarding State proposals. They make comments to the
14 State Board of Fish and Board of Game.

15

16 A lot of times I just kind of find
17 these out. Do we have a comment? The Board is over
18 there -- the State right now is over there at the Board
19 of Game commenting from OSM. I don't have that. Why
20 is that? I'm concerned. I've had this concern for a
21 long time. I think that this Council -- I've asked
22 different times with OSM I would like to see those. I
23 still don't see those.

24

25 There was a proposal last year on meat
26 salvage on game birds. There's proposals from rural
27 Alaska to salvage all of the edible meat on game birds.
28 Right now it's just the breast. Throw the rest, the
29 legs and everything away. Now under spring waterfowl
30 regulations the Migratory Bird Council has required the
31 salvage of legs and the body of the waterfowl. That's
32 the way it should be. This is a subsistence hunt, you
33 should recover the meat. Anybody that cuts the breast
34 out of a goose and throws the rest away should go to
35 jail. That's like wanton waste, period.

36

37 But when I read the OSM comment on that
38 proposal last year, I was dumbfounded to see that they
39 were opposing that proposal when, in reality, it should
40 be the opposite to that. So my concern is that OSM
41 makes comments to the Board of Fish and the Board of
42 Game outside of the Regional Council process and I
43 don't think that that actually should be that way. I
44 feel this Council, all of the Regional Councils of
45 Alaska, should be consulted on what OSM is going to say
46 to the Board of Game and Board of Fish.

47

48 I think that's an action item for our
49 annual report. How does the Council feel about that?

50

1 MR. VENT: The way you stated is
2 correct. They should be reflecting what we are saying
3 in the Councils. I mean they shouldn't be going above
4 us and saying something that's totally different than
5 what we're trying to apply. I don't think that's
6 right. What you're saying is correct when talking
7 about the birds. I guess there's some areas where --
8 this has to deal with swans I heard. That was where
9 this proposal came in because they were taking the
10 breast meat. That's not done traditionally by Natives.
11 You don't see a piece out there. You don't even see a
12 feather until it's in the woods or something. We don't
13 allow that to happen in our villages. I never heard of
14 that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I want this to
17 float a little higher. I've said it before. It's not
18 going anywhere. I want this to float a little higher
19 to the Federal Subsistence Board that the Regional
20 Council should be consulted in the comments to the
21 Board of Game and Board of Fish because a lot of times
22 those comments can be in opposition to what the
23 Regional Councils have already stated on the record. A
24 lot of times during the Board meetings not the entirety
25 of what the Councils have said regarding a State
26 proposal is actually -- it's either yea or nay.
27 There's should be justifications also driven.

28
29 So I want this to be an annual report
30 topic that the comments from OSM be reviewed by the
31 Regional Council itself or at least the leadership of
32 each Council to review whether those are in line with
33 what Council actions have occurred.

34
35 (Zach returns)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're on this
38 annual report. We have one wildlife proposal
39 promulgated while you were gone. That's a caribou
40 proposal. I'll give you all the details on that. You
41 can also get that off of our transcript.

42
43 Go ahead, Ray.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: Through the Chair. I was
46 at the Board meeting when they were dealing with this
47 one. There is a division and I testified to that fact
48 as McGrath Fish and Game Advisory Committee. What
49 happens traditionally is when you're out hunting in the
50

1 fall and you roast a grouse over the fire, you can eat
2 the whole thing, but the local practice is that you
3 take the breast meat if you're putting them in the
4 freezer or whatever and the wings and neck and so on is
5 used for trapping bait and it's an important trapping
6 thing.

7
8 So there is a difference in use. I
9 would guess in other areas that's what they do, you
10 know. You hang that up for trapping bait because
11 there's not much meat there on the grouse, but they're
12 excellent if you just roast them over the fire and
13 roast the whole thing like in the fall hunts and so on.

14
15 So there is a division in -- I'd like
16 to hear a little more comment from the other areas of
17 what the practice is in their area. Do you eat all of
18 a grouse or do you use part of it for trapping?

19
20 MS. CLARK: Well, in Grayling some
21 people do that. There's a bunch of trappers that
22 really go out for marten and they save part of it.
23 Yes, they use the guts and the backbone, but they take
24 off the legs and the breast to eat. Yes, it's all
25 utilized.

26
27 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it's used, but it's
28 not the same purpose.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I trap. I save the
31 meat from grouse, the leg, wing base, breast meat. The
32 neck meat, the guts, the backbone, the wings, the
33 feathers, that's excellent marten bait. Lynx really
34 love those things. So I don't throw any of it away.
35 Some is used for trapping bait, but the meat is
36 salvaged.

37
38 Right now the only requirement is to
39 salvage the breast meat and throw all the rest away,
40 the legs and everything else. So as far as use -- I
41 watch these guys on TV when I go to town. I watch the
42 Outdoor Channel and they just cut the breast meat out
43 of these geese. Killing big piles of geese and just
44 hacking a little bit off the breast and throwing the
45 rest away.

46
47 That's disgusting. That's like
48 sickening to see how much meat is being thrown away.
49 All the fat, all that good meat is thrown away. That's
50

1 not legal under migratory bird regulations right now.
2 That actually would be illegal to throw all that away.

3
4 Pollock.

5
6 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I eat grouse too, but
7 there's no waste. I eat the breast part and my dogs
8 eat the rest. I throw the guts and the backbone and
9 neck and wings, head, all go in my dog bowls. So I
10 utilize the whole bird. There's no waste.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.
13 We're on the annual report and I'm trying to locate our
14 annual report. Do we have a draft copy?

15
16 MR. STEVENSON: It should be in the
17 blue.....

18
19 MR. VENT: Jack, it's in the blue
20 folder, I think.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this meeting I
23 think we've made two additions to the annual report.
24 One is on the BLM RMP process. Did you get those
25 notes?

26
27 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then the other
30 annual report is reviewing the OSM comments to the
31 Board of Game and Board of Fish by the Regional
32 Advisory Councils. Basically OSM has been commenting
33 without the knowledge of the Regional Councils. Right
34 this moment I don't have the comments from OSM. I feel
35 that we should at least be provided OSM's comments so
36 that we can weigh in one way or the other. This
37 program should not be working outside of the Regional
38 Council process. I think that's kind of a big deal.

39
40 Zach.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 I know that in the past when we met at the October 2016
44 Western Interior meeting in McGrath that the State
45 liaison Mr. George Pappas had provided verbal or an
46 oral update on the status of State fisheries and also
47 game proposals of interest to the Western Interior
48 Region and that's reflected in the transcripts that
49 came out of that meeting.

50

1 Just so I can provide the most precise
2 request possible, is the RAC wishing to, one, continue
3 those updates on a routine and regular basis and in
4 addition to also receive as part of those updates any
5 written correspondence or documents that would help to
6 illustrate those positions?

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George gave us a
9 real nice update on what the various proposals effects
10 and so forth would be. What I'm talking about, I'm not
11 even sure if you've seen it. OSM develops comments to
12 the Board of Game and Board of Fish.

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: I've never seen those.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want those here.
17 In fact, if they're available for this Board of Game
18 meeting, I want to see them tomorrow. There are
19 comments that OSM develops. See, here they are right
20 now. Recommendations to the Board of Game. So I'll
21 sit down tonight and read this. Look at this. These
22 are all comments to the Board of Game on various
23 things. Nobody has seen this.

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is this, Lisa?
28 This is not what I'm talking about. Oh, here it is.

29
30 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. Lisa
31 Maas for the record. Those are copies of all the OSM
32 comments on Board of Game proposals.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like to
35 review these. All these Councils should have these at
36 our table. This Council should have had all these
37 documents here at this table at every meeting whether
38 it's a Board of Fish meeting, whether it's a Board of
39 Game meeting. Under 805 of ANILCA, anything that
40 affects subsistence is to be reviewed by this Council.
41 These comments that you have I have not seen. Has any
42 Council Member seen?

43
44 These comments like this, anything that
45 affects subsistence, Board of Game, Board of Fish
46 regulatory changes, affects subsistence a lot of the
47 time should be reviewed by this Council. That's what
48 I'm talking about.

1 Thank you for providing a copy. I'll
2 look at them.

3
4 MS. MAAS: Make sure you keep both of
5 them. One is for Interior and one is for Arctic.

6
7 MR. VENT: Jack, can we get copies of
8 that here in the Council?

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Can these be
11 printed out? You have these on your computer?

12
13 MS. MAAS: I can check if I have
14 network access.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One is for the
17 Bethel meeting. That's passed. One is for the
18 Interior Northeast meeting. That's in progress right
19 now. But that's what I'm saying. Have you ever seen
20 this, Zach?

21
22 MR. STEVENSON: I have not.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here's my point. My
25 coordinator has not seen this. This Regional Council
26 has not seen this. I want all 10 Councils to see what
27 OSM is saying to the Board of Game or the Board of
28 Fish.

29
30 Tom.

31
32 MR. KRON: As always, you are exactly
33 right. I saw the Board of Game comments for the
34 meeting that's going on right now. I saw them I think
35 a week ago. Quickly read through them and provided
36 comments along with other staff that happened to be at
37 OSM at the time. So I've seen them, but what you're
38 saying is exactly right.

39
40 A lot of times they come together just
41 before the comments have to get to the Board. Again,
42 I'm not sure how much freedom they're going to have to
43 send them out for everybody's comments, but again I
44 think providing this group so that you see them before
45 you go to the Board meeting that -- again, what you're
46 saying is dead on. It's exactly right. That's the way
47 it should happen under 805(c).

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 805(c) of ANILCA,

50

1 these comments should be transmitted to the
2 coordinator, then those should be disseminated to the
3 Council. The Council can review them and go I don't
4 like this position. This is not what our Council's
5 done in the past. There might be a whole bunch of
6 Council. So if you're going to take Staff comments on
7 the comments, the Regional Council should definitely be
8 involved in the loop.

9

10 Lisa.

11

12 MS. MAAS: I just wanted to clarify.
13 These comments were done months and months ahead of
14 time. There would have been plenty of time for the
15 Councils to comment on them, but I think it's just
16 never really been brought up. I don't know. I mean
17 this is how it's been done for years and years.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For a few years now
20 I've seen these pop up and I've asked in other meetings
21 I would like to see these. This continues to be
22 camouflaged. That's why I'm putting it on the annual
23 report.

24

25 MS. MAAS: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think it's come to
28 the point where Gene Peltola and everybody down there
29 at OSM better get it through their head this Regional
30 Council has to see anything that affects subsistence.
31 That's a statute. That's what this program is all
32 about. If this Council is kept in the dark about what
33 the comments are, I don't think it should be working
34 that way.

35

36 MS. MAAS: Just for the record, since
37 you guys seemed really fixated on that game bird
38 proposal or game meat -- I mean the criteria OSM uses
39 when responding to the Board of Game is conservation of
40 population and continuation of subsistence use. Then,
41 of course, regulatory complexity.

42

43 So if there's something that, like in
44 the case of the game meat, it misaligned State and
45 Federal regulations, so if that's something you guys
46 want, then you could also submit a proposal to require
47 that under Federal regulations. Although I understand
48 it's only applicable to Federal users.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm not
2 fixated on that. I just floated it as an example.
3 Something that OSM was opposed to the proposal. It was
4 like I bet if you took a vote of this Council, the
5 majority would vote in favor of the proposal. That's
6 where these Councils have to be a little bit more
7 involved.

8
9 I would like the Council to see these
10 for an example of what the comments are. Darrel wants
11 to see these. If these can be transmitted somehow this
12 evening to the various Council Members electronically
13 or however.

14
15 Zach.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 This is the first time I've also seen those items
19 available to our team. Tom, I'm wondering if you
20 could, once we wrap up this evening, if you could help
21 me identify who is responsible within OSM for producing
22 those reports so that I can -- I'm unaware of where I
23 can get that information. So I first need to figure
24 out who is producing these items and how to obtain them
25 in a timely way so that when these requests come up I
26 can provide them as needed.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

31
32 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Again, I've
33 never seen the finals on these things, but I think.....

34
35 MS. MAAS: They're on our share drive.
36 They're on our network drive. I'm not sure if the
37 hotel has the capacity to print those and make copies.
38 Otherwise someone at the office with access to our
39 network -- I don't know if you have access to our
40 network.

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: Not remotely, no.

43
44 MS. MAAS: Okay. Then they can email
45 them to anyone. George might have them at the Board of
46 Game meeting. I don't know how many copies he would
47 have, but he's here.

48
49 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me. What's
50

1 evident is that there needs to be a protocol in place,
2 that the expectation is not that these may or may not
3 be available if you know where to look for them or not.
4 Like that doesn't work. We need to have a protocol
5 where these are shared on a routine basis so that the
6 information is being relayed to the Chairs for
7 circulation in a routine manner.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My intention is that
10 all Regional Councils shall be apprised of these that
11 are affected by Board of Fish or Board of Game
12 regulations for that region. They should be apprised
13 of these actions through their Council Coordinators.
14 You have the staff to disseminate it to the Regional
15 Councils. All you have to do is if it affects Western
16 Interior, Northwest Arctic, whatever region it is, you
17 know who's their coordinator, transmit it to them.

18
19 This is not complex. This is going to
20 change. This is the end of this. It's in our share
21 drive. We're not on your share drive. We don't know
22 what the hell you're talking about.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So bottom linen is
27 this is going to change. If I have to put it into this
28 annual report, that's what we're going to have to do.
29 OSM, Gene and everybody down at OSM, these comments are
30 going to be shared with these Regional Councils.

31
32 Tom.

33
34 MR. KRON: Yes, sir.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't like to get
37 emphatic like that, but after a few different times
38 this has got to be the way it is.

39
40 MR. KRON: Again, I think I said
41 earlier you're exactly right. I see it. George Pappas
42 is who you mentioned, but he represents both fisheries
43 and wildlife issues with the Board of Game and the
44 Board of Fish and he takes the lead to put these things
45 together working with other Federal agency staff.
46 You're exactly right, they should come to the Councils.
47 They should ask for your input on these things. You're
48 exactly right. It will happen.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sounds great.
2 So that is an annual report topic. We want the Federal
3 Board to be aware that this has not been occurring.
4 The Federal Board wants to know what's going on with
5 our Regional Councils. All Regional Councils shall be
6 in the loop on these comments to the Board of Game and
7 Board of Fish under 805(c) of ANILCA.

8
9 Have you noted that?

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: I have, yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at our
14 annual report. We have the insertion into the annual
15 report about the BLM RMP process, which we had earlier
16 today. And for the anthropology assistance with the
17 BLM process. And this OSM comment loop for the
18 Regional Advisory Councils. And then we have in our
19 packet our others. Timeline requested for improving
20 tribal consultation. We've discussed these topics
21 previously.

22
23 Shirley, have you seen this document
24 before?

25
26 MS. CLARK: No, I haven't seen it.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have the
29 document? It should be in your blue packet. It's
30 titled Western Interior Regional Council. Anthony
31 Christianson, Dear Chairman, and then it's got these
32 one through nine and we'll have two additions.

33
34 There was a Presidential directive for
35 tribal consultation. We've identified that the tribal
36 consultation process isn't working as well as it should
37 work. We're giving suggested language to assist the
38 Office of Subsistence Management's Native liaison with
39 working with the other subsistence coordinators on
40 other Federal lands. There needs to be better
41 communication with the tribes on proposals that affect
42 specific communities and things that affect specific
43 communities.

44
45 Regional Council Members cannot be
46 relied on because I count 42 communities in the Western
47 Interior Region. That's a lot of villages and there
48 are only nine, ten people at this seat.

49
50

1 Any further. Zach.

2
3 MR. STEVENSON: I want to take a
4 moment, if I may, Mr. Chair, to touch on that topic of
5 effective engagement between OSM and communities if I
6 may, sir.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Please do.

9
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Within this
11 past season there was an effort made to engage in a
12 public meeting that was held on January 24, 2017 in
13 Kotzebue. I site this example to illustrate the
14 mechanics of how outreach and engagement can be done
15 and to illustrate both how that can work effectively,
16 but how also that can be enhanced and strengthened.

17
18 The issue was a public meeting
19 regarding a proposed moose closure in Unit 23 to non-
20 Federally qualified subsistence users and it affected
21 Northwest Arctic communities in Unit 23. There has
22 been a longstanding history of residents in the
23 Northwest Arctic feeling as though outreach can be
24 strengthened with communities, particularly from the
25 agencies working outside the region.

26
27 An extensive effort was made in this
28 public outreach effort involving the local media, the
29 radio stations, news releases, social media using
30 Facebook, telephone calls, faxes and mail pieces sent
31 to every tribal council, every municipality and every
32 agency in the region. Though effective, there were
33 still folks that felt more could be done to improve
34 that process.

35
36 I came away wondering, well, what can
37 we do in region to also match what's occurring outside.
38 My recommendation to Staff at OSM has been that the
39 effort to facilitate outreach be a two-way street.
40 Meaning that when we are engaging communities on an
41 issue, that OSM is always asking what can we do to make
42 this process more effective. Similarly, what can we
43 ask of our RAC members to ensure that the message that
44 is being communicated on whatever issue is also getting
45 back to the communities themselves through
46 communication with tribal councils, with
47 municipalities, with Alaska Native corporations, with
48 schools, with elder councils, with search and rescue,
49 what have you.

50

1 I don't know if there's a way to
2 formalize that process or perhaps simply to, when we're
3 taking action on an issue, remind ourselves as a RAC
4 that that process can be effective or even more
5 effective when we're working as a team both from the
6 agency side asking how can we more effectively engage
7 all these partners in a coordinated fashion and
8 similarly how can the RAC carry that message back to
9 the community.

10
11 I'm sharing that only having recently
12 come out of this process and wondering what can we do
13 as a team to make sure that this process continues in
14 an efficient and effective manner.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Yeah,
19 there's a lot of various ways to try to get the tribal
20 consultation achieved. But when we have a meeting like
21 we did last fall in McGrath and there's virtually no
22 tribal comments on any proposal, the tribal
23 consultation is failing. So I'm glad to hear that
24 there's exploration of various ways of trying to get
25 the word out.

26
27 I want to elevate this issue to the
28 Federal Subsistence Board in this annual report that
29 there's a need for additional work. To have complete
30 reliance on one person, Orville Lind, the Native
31 liaison for OSM, to do the whole job for 228 tribes
32 it's too much. It's too much for him to do that. He
33 needs a wider base of assistance to do that.

34
35 Any further discussion on it. Shirley.

36
37 MS. CLARK: Hey, here's when we go --
38 have somebody go on Facebook. Everybody reads that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've been talking
41 about Facebook for a few years with the Federal
42 Subsistence Board. They were dumbfounded. I know of
43 people in their 70's and 80's on Facebook. People love
44 Facebook. I look at it all the time. I'm accused of
45 being a Facebook addict, but I learn a lot of stuff on
46 Facebook on different things and different places.
47 People send me game requests. I don't want to see
48 that. I want to know what's going on.

49
50

1 Pollock.

2
3 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When
4 I first got back on this board a few years ago -- I was
5 on this board the first few years as it was formed,
6 then I had to get off. I was glad to get back on and
7 at the time my first meeting was to go to the smaller
8 communities and have a meeting with the peoples that we
9 represent. But they run into some difficulties, like
10 the Feds who give us the money, and there's some
11 regulations at the time. I was told they have to put us
12 in an established place like a hotel where the Feds
13 could pay, so that's how we go back to meeting only in
14 bigger communities. But what is a better way to meet
15 the peoples that we represent is to have a meeting once
16 in a while in smaller communities.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.
21 Any further discussion on item 1 on timeline requested
22 for improving tribal consultation.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comment on
27 timeline request for establishing a wildlife resource
28 monitoring program like the Fisheries Resource
29 Monitoring Program. That would basically be -- the
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring prioritizes informational
31 requests from Regional Councils and then a long process
32 for scientific eligibility and so forth. There's
33 getting to be more and more of a need for wildlife
34 information.

35
36 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

39
40 MR. VENT: I have one on that one.
41 We're always having problems in the villages trying to
42 get these numbers for the moose population, but the
43 time when they want to get the numbers the weather is
44 not good. That's some of the reasons I haven't been
45 able to find out about moose population in our area.
46 Now we finally get the numbers and they're telling me
47 it's low. So we know there's a problem in there, but
48 we haven't been able to recognize that problem when we
49 should have recognized it two years ago, but they

50

1 couldn't get the numbers to us.

2

3 This timeline request, I think it would
4 maybe help alleviate some of the problems that we're
5 having with our population, understanding if we're
6 going to have problems in the future.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The timeline request
9 is for resource monitoring program, which is basically
10 to study various community harvests. A lot of that is
11 subsistence data from a lot of communities. There's
12 some new stuff for Hughes and up around where you're
13 at, but there is a lot of communities that don't have
14 harvest data or harvest uses and so forth. That's what
15 this is talking about.

16

17 The moose population data lack had to
18 do with snowfall and they couldn't do the moose
19 surveys. So Koyukuk/Nowitna is going to give us new
20 information probably tomorrow when we review that. So
21 this item 2 is referring to developing a wildlife
22 resource monitoring program.

23

24 MR. VENT: Okay. That sounds good
25 because I know we have a lack of enforcement. We have
26 a lack of a lot of things and I just -- you know, I'm
27 just kind of worried about our situation there.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This would basically
30 be for scientific information.

31

32 Zach.

33

34 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 I wanted to point out that this is the second time in
36 my one year of service with OSM that that has been
37 mentioned in an annual report. So it's now come up
38 twice in two separate reports. The first time it was
39 mentioned it had been mentioned for the past 10 years,
40 each year. So this apparently has been a persistent and
41 perennial problem for over a decade.

42

43 It's my understanding that in the
44 previous response that was received the first time this
45 issue was mentioned the response from the Board was
46 that there was not sufficient funding at this time to
47 establish that program and that was the response a year
48 ago.

49

50

1 I don't know what response we'll
2 receive the second time around. This is now the 12th
3 year, the 12th time this issue has gone to the Board.
4 To Mr. Vent's point a moment ago, I am aware that when
5 the State is collecting data, and this is not just
6 unique to Western Interior, oftentimes the State is
7 dealing with incomplete datasets that are oftentimes
8 collected by different individuals over extended
9 periods of time. So that is a reflection on limited
10 resources, limited funding at the State level for doing
11 necessary field data work that helps to inform species
12 management.

13
14 So I think there's a clear case to be
15 made for why this work is important. What I haven't
16 heard made at least at a State or Federal level is what
17 can be done to raise the necessary funding to address
18 this problem. That's a question that has implications
19 that are fairly significant and I don't have an answer
20 to that question.

21
22 But I want to point out this is not a
23 new request. It's been made for an extended period of
24 time and I don't have an immediate answer to that
25 challenge, but I think if this is something that is of
26 interest to the RAC, it may warrant additional
27 conversations so that perhaps we can come to some
28 clarity. I didn't want you to think that there hasn't
29 been an effort made to raise the significance of this
30 issue. There has. We're just not getting the solution
31 that we're asking for.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Zach.
36 There's number 3. Last fall we were discussing that
37 caribou population, Western Arctic, and how the
38 Department of Fish and Game was using photographic
39 observation and archaic censussing. I found out that
40 the Department of Fish and Game is going to use digital
41 photography and they're going to advance a little bit.
42 I still want to bring this issue up that one way or
43 another there needs to be more quicker sensing methods
44 used for caribou populations as these populations are
45 coming more towards crisis.

46
47 So I think we should change the title.
48 It should be enhance caribou census data for caribou
49 populations and that would be through digital
50

1 photograph. I proposed remote sensing through
2 satellite. That has a whole bunch of problems. So
3 there needs to be digital photography and programs
4 developed that can enumerate how many caribou are in
5 the image in a more rapid manner.

6
7 So that's basically -- slightly change
8 the title, but basically asking for the same thing.
9 We've got to move away from this aerial photograph and
10 these archaic symptoms. The Federal program and the
11 State programs are relying on antiquated methods. The
12 State is talking about using digital photography. I
13 don't know that they have the equipment to implement
14 that.

15
16 When we had the Koyukuk River Advisory
17 Committee meeting I asked our area biologist how is it
18 looking for funding. Because the State of Alaska
19 increased the tag fees and license fees, the State of
20 Alaska, Division of Wildlife Conservation is flush.
21 They're going to get a lot more money because when they
22 nearly doubled a non-resident tag for caribou, moose,
23 whatever it was, the way it works is for every dollar
24 they sell in license they get \$3 in Pittman-Roberts
25 Funds. There's going to be a lot -- basically they're
26 going to get double the amount of license fees. They're
27 going to have a phenomenal amount of additional
28 funding.

29
30 So the Department of Fish and Game has
31 no reason not to have more advanced censussing for
32 these caribou at this time. OSM works in conjunction
33 with the Department. In their Technical Committee
34 reviews, they need to be working towards better
35 censussing for caribou.

36
37 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

40
41 MR. VENT: I think that also reflects
42 that this should be -- if it works so good -- if it's
43 effective for caribou, that it should be applied to
44 other subsistence foods, for instance moose,
45 bears or anything like. I don't think it would work
46 good for bear, but maybe some other animals that we
47 depend on in the area.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The trouble with

50

1 moose is they live in the trees. For the caribou
2 censussing, they wait for it to get really hot in the
3 tundra and the caribou bunch up. They get really
4 tightly packed together and then they have radio
5 collars on some of those animals and they fly around
6 and take pictures of that. But then it took months to
7 develop all the film and all this antiquated stuff.

8
9 There's real-time digital high-
10 definition cameras. I know there are 200-megapixel
11 cameras. I know that Nikon makes a 36-megapixel camera
12 and the density would show the caribou a lot better
13 than film. There are programs that will actually
14 enumerate how many dots are there. So it gets a lot
15 easier.

16
17 So that's what I would like OSM and the
18 Federal Subsistence Program to be pushing the State
19 towards more modern technologies for census.

20
21 Number 4 is utilizing charters to
22 reduce the burden on Council Members attending
23 meetings. That's a big deal, so this Council needs --
24 I feel that Council Members can make requests for
25 carriers for fare flights. You would have preferred
26 Warbelow's -- correction, a.....

27
28 MR. VENT: Wright.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Wright Air
31 flight. I feel that Council Members should make
32 recommendation to the Council Coordinator for the
33 appropriate carrier to service their community. What's
34 the name of this outfit?

35
36 MR. STEVENSON: El Sol.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: El Sol. They don't
39 know anything about rural travel and they should have
40 no say in who gets to carry the Council Members
41 because, look, you're like half a day late and a dollar
42 short.

43
44 MR. VENT: I am really -- you know, I
45 have a few words to say because my friend, Don Honea,
46 ain't here. I know he'd want to have a few words to
47 say on this. I think there should be a survey with the
48 RAC members that could give out asking who they prefer
49 to fly with or anything like that. Like in my area we
50

1 all know that we're having a problem with Ravn because
2 Wright's is more effective. They're there on time.
3 They're there every day.

4
5 Don is going to tell you the same
6 thing. I imagine if you do a survey with us and ask us
7 in the village who we'd rather travel with, that would
8 be our answer. That would be written down in a log
9 somewhere so you don't have to -- you can look at these
10 and this is who they prefer to fly with.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That issue in
13 conjunction with utilization of charters. This fall
14 meeting we had to go all the way to Anchorage, spend
15 the night, go all the way down to McGrath. When we
16 have a northern meeting, the southern members have to
17 do the same thing. We should have a charter between
18 the two regions because we don't have direct carriers.

19
20 So this is a very important thing for
21 the Council Coordinator Division. The charter flights
22 are imperative for these Councils because we're
23 volunteering. It doesn't cost any or sometimes less to
24 do a charter across the boundaries between the northern
25 and southern portion of the Western Interior Region.

26
27 The Council Members, if they're on fare
28 flights, they should have the ability to request a
29 carrier and El Sol should honor that and the
30 Subsistence Coordinator Division should go to bat for
31 these Councils on what carriers are effective on
32 carrying. So that should be included in this. The
33 preferred carriers should be honored because not all
34 carriers are equal in rural Alaska.

35
36 Any other discussion. Zach.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 When this issue was raised at the October 2016 meeting,
40 the request was to initiate charter flights immediately
41 and that request was heard and I spent about three and
42 a half weeks following up on that request, which
43 involved direct communication with the director of El
44 Sol corporate, their CEO, with the head attorney who
45 oversees travel with the United States Fish and
46 Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. and the Bureau of
47 Land Management Interagency Travel Program.

48
49 All of this was spurred -- as I
50

1 learned, and I believe I mentioned this to some of you
2 because in October of 2016 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
3 Service changed its travel program. Whereas in the
4 past charter flights were allowed without any hassle,
5 no more. That has ended. Gone. Completely over. No
6 more. No more. It's over.

7
8 In order to initiate charters now, what
9 is required is three steps. Number one, there has to
10 be a minimum in the summer season, meaning between
11 March and October, the BLM's summer season. During
12 that timeframe a minimum of two weeks advance notice
13 for a charter flight must be provided because that's
14 the busiest time of the year for Federal agencies to
15 fly. A lot of field work is being done.

16
17 Number two, a cost comparison may be
18 done and the Federal Service Interagency Travel Program
19 considers a charter to be, number one, any non-
20 commercial flight; number two, a charter can occur with
21 an agency aircraft, meaning a plane that the agency
22 owns or, alternatively, a contract charter, meaning a
23 small aircraft which the Federal government does not
24 own but leases, meaning they pay money to use it.

25
26 Number three, for that charter to be
27 effective and to be approved, two things need to be
28 done. Number one, there needs to be a price comparison
29 of a charter versus a non-charter flight and the
30 charter has to be cheaper. It all comes down to money.
31 If the charter is not cheaper, they're not going to
32 approve it. Secondly, the aircraft has to be available.
33 In other words, it can't be used for another purpose.
34 It can't be already obligated for that purpose.

35
36 Then, once that test is done it has to
37 go to the attorney in Washington, D.C. who reviews all
38 that information and approves it. Again, this is why
39 it takes two weeks. In the wintertime, that process is
40 a little bit shorter. How much shorter wasn't
41 specified.

42
43 So what I was told was that's the
44 process and because this meeting was held in Fairbanks
45 rather than McGrath or a non-hub community, the
46 cheapest option was to take a commercial flight, which
47 is why we took a commercial flight. Did I request
48 Wright Aviation? Yes, I did. Did we get it in two
49 cases? No, we didn't. The request was made. I also
50

1 requested Warbelow's. In the past I had forgotten to
2 request Warbelow's and that created some hassle. I
3 made that request as well.
4

5 The point I'm trying to convey to you
6 is I hear your request loud and clear and I'm doing
7 everything I can within the legal constraints that we
8 have to follow to address those needs. In the case of
9 Ravn today, I didn't want to take Ravn. I had to. I
10 was told I had to by the airline company. As a result,
11 we had Ravn miss a flight. They said they had a delay.
12 They missed it. Then they told me they were going to
13 come back and then ultimately they cancelled the
14 flight.
15

16 That, to me, is unacceptable. I'm
17 frustrated about it. I'll continue to advocate, but
18 don't think for a moment I'm not advocating for your
19 interests. I provide that information to give you a
20 little bit of insight into how this process works.
21

22 If we meet in a non-hub community in
23 the future and we can demonstrate that a charter, be
24 that a commercial charter or rental charter, is in fact
25 cheaper and available, absolutely we'll do it, but I
26 have to follow the protocol. That's the law that I'm
27 required to follow.
28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
32 all you've done on that issue. I see where you're up
33 against the wall there. You do understand and I want
34 -- how do I highlight this to Carl Johnson. Is he well
35 aware of our concerns and just as frustrated as you
36 are?
37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 When this issue first came up, his response was this is
40 ridiculous. Why are we being forced to jump through
41 this. This is not appropriate. We have RAC members
42 who are volunteering their time away from their
43 families and their expertise to be here. Let's make
44 this work.
45

46 The first directive that I was given
47 from Carl was when speaking with our Federal Travel
48 Program, get the policy. Show us the actual policy
49 that shows that charter flights are no longer available
50

1 and that really floored our travel agents. They're
2 like we've never had anyone ask for that before and
3 they got scared and they provided the policy. That's
4 what then followed up with this whole conversation with
5 the attorney.

6
7 So Carl has been an advocate. I think
8 he understands and agrees with your point. He sees eye
9 to eye with you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Having heard that, I
12 feel that we should strike number four because OSM is
13 advocating for us. We don't need the Federal Board to
14 get involved with this. That would be appropriate.

15
16 Is it agreeable to the Council to
17 strike number four because this issue is being
18 addressed already.

19
20 IN UNISON: Yes.

21
22 MR. VENT: Are we going to keep doing
23 this where we're going to keep missing meetings because
24 some of the issues that I wanted to explain in the
25 meetings I am not able to do it now. I'm sure Don is
26 thinking the same thing. If this is going to continue,
27 I'd rather just pay my way and then see if they can
28 reimburse me if that's even possible because I know
29 this is going to continue.

30
31 I remember when I was in Galena for a
32 meeting over two years ago. I was stuck there for four
33 days, five days. I can't get home. There was no way
34 they'd let me on a plane even though the weather was
35 good. I wasn't able to get home. Now I try to come to
36 this meeting there was no flights yesterday. The
37 weather was clear. There was no problem with the
38 weather. There was no flights. I barely made it
39 today.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Your lack of
42 attendance and Don's lack of attendance gives the
43 Coordinator Division the ammunition to work with El
44 Sol. This failed. This is unacceptable. I want to at
45 least bring that back that the system is failing with
46 El Sol. They need to work with the proper carriers
47 that are going to get the job done. But the Federal
48 Subsistence Board doesn't need to get involved in this
49 issue.

50

1 Number five. We need to move through
2 these annual reports because we're coming down to 5:30
3 here. Request for analysis of in-season tools to
4 enhance the assessment of salmon run strengths along
5 the Yukon River. That's fairly black and white.

6
7 MR. VENT: Yeah.

8
9 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Number six, request
12 to minimize the effects of salmon bycatch in the Bering
13 Sea on Federally qualified subsistence users on the
14 Koyukuk and Yukon River. That's black and white.

15
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Request for studies
19 to do better understanding the effects of warming
20 waters on subsistence fisheries. That's kind of a
21 Fisheries Monitoring Program request.

22
23 Darrel.

24
25 MR. VENT: Yeah, is that concerning
26 climate?

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Zach.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 I believe that that in our October meeting that request
32 came up on this notion of climate change and I believe
33 it was raised by Member Gervais wanting to know how
34 does increasing sea surface temperatures affect
35 subsistence fisheries. That's in part why we invited
36 Aaron Poe of the Aleutian/Bering Sea Islands Landscape
37 Conservation Cooperative to share a little bit of
38 information about their work and he'll be speaking
39 tomorrow briefly.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. THOMAS: It says on the Koyukuk and
44 Yukon Rivers. What about the Kuskokwim River? Has
45 something been done about this before that I don't know
46 about or have I missed something here?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're correct. We
49 can insert the Kuskokwim there.....

50

1 MR. THOMAS: Please do.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:because it's
4 within our region.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Insert that. Duly
9 noted. Thank you very much. Oversight.

10
11 MR. THOMAS: Okay. The oversight
12 committee took care of that, right?

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's why
17 we need all the Council members. That's why we need to
18 have more Council Members on the Kuskokwim.

19
20 Request for studies on warming. That's
21 a black and white issue. It is being addressed. Do we
22 really need to have this in the annual report?

23
24 MR. ALEXIE: No.

25
26 MR. STEVENSON: Are you asking me, Mr.
27 Chair?

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: My thought process
32 there was that it helps to elevate the importance of
33 the need for that type of research so that if there's
34 an opportunity to do that in the future, we have it on
35 the record.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, and it also
38 adds for a Fisheries Monitoring.....

39
40 MR. STEVENSON: Correct.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Program
43 project. So we'll retain that. Darrel.

44
45 MR. VENT: Yes, I think that's, you
46 know, one of the things maybe we could have a little
47 session on climate change or something that maybe we
48 can deal with this. Because it says on here that's one
49 of our subjects, but we need to -- okay, let's see what
50

1 Zach has to say on that.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Darrel. One
4 of the things I hope that comes out of this
5 conversation tomorrow with Aaron Poe is, one, a better
6 understanding of what the Landscape Conservation
7 Cooperatives do. Number two, how that work is relevant
8 to subsistence users. Thirdly, an example of where
9 they've worked with subsistence users elsewhere in
10 Alaska. If some of that is of interest to this group,
11 there may be an opportunity for continuing that
12 relationship in the future.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. THOMAS: A question on this one.
17 How much is actually being done testing this kind of
18 stuff? I've seen through the years, I think it was
19 1999, if I remember right, they had the big
20 warming trend down there in Bristol Bay and all of a
21 sudden there was no salmon they said. Well, it just
22 went down deep because the water was warm, things like
23 this. Has there been any further studies on or will
24 the man tomorrow have the answers for this possibly?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we'll have to
27 see what that person has to say, this Aaron Poe. It
28 was 1997 the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon had returned
29 far under forecast and the waters were exceptionally
30 warm. Apparently the marine environment was
31 unsupportive of production.

32

33 They didn't just go deep in the water
34 because I used to fish in Bristol Bay and they just
35 weren't there. There was a huge, huge problem on
36 return for several years in Bristol Bay. Now they've
37 recovered. I mean there's marine cycles with decadal
38 oscillation and a whole bunch of stuff that goes on.

39

40 We need to move through this. We'll
41 retain number seven.

42

43 Emphasis on importance of rural seats
44 on the Federal Subsistence Board. Request for an
45 additional Board member. This was a comment that was
46 initially made to make a nine-member Federal
47 Subsistence Board, but the Secretary of Interior
48 declined that when they re-evaluated the OSM and
49 Federal Subsistence Board process.

50

1 I was happy that the Secretary of
2 Interior appointed the Chairman Tony Christianson in a
3 timely manner. Who is the other Board member now?

4
5 MR. KRON: Rhonda Pitka.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Rhonda Pitka in a
8 timely manner. I was really concerned that the Federal
9 Subsistence Board was going to meet in January and not
10 have a full Board, so I was real happy to see that.

11
12 I don't know that we need to have this
13 number eight now that that has occurred. So I would
14 like to strike number eight.

15
16 Recognition and appreciation for Mr.
17 Walker's service on the Council.

18
19 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair. You know, I see
20 that in the area you talked about we have 42 -- we're
21 representing 42 -- is that villages or tribes or areas?
22 I just want to, you know, really that we're
23 representing some areas and they don't have any input
24 or there's not enough communication. So I think it's a
25 communication problem that we have with some of these
26 villages. It's not that the representation ain't
27 there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council -- the
30 Councils couldn't have 42 different members. That
31 would be unwieldy. That's why the tribal consultation
32 issue is such a huge deal is because this Council needs
33 to have the input from all the communities if we could
34 get it or at least they should have the opportunity to
35 provide input into this process because this is a
36 platform for discussion of any issue affecting
37 subsistence. The makeup of the Councils is already set
38 by the Secretary of Interior's process and the
39 Department of Agriculture.

40
41 Recognition and appreciation for Mr.
42 Walker's service on the Council. At its fall meeting,
43 the Council recognized Mr. Walker for his 15 years of
44 service and request that the Board transmit a letter of
45 appreciation to Mr. Walker. I feel that's very
46 appropriate because Robert worked real hard on this and
47 represented this Council at the Federal Subsistence
48 Board and did various things for this Council and his
49 input in the Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan on the

50

1 Shageluk Wood Bison Plan was integral as our
2 representative.

3
4 So I do highly appreciate Robert's work
5 with this Council. Even during the loss of his wife he
6 still attended meetings. So I do feel that it's very
7 warranted.

8
9 We have the addition of the BLM
10 comments, which we've amended in the OSM comments to
11 the Federal.....

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Through the Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: I'm wondering if we
18 couldn't provide a plaque or something that would -- a
19 letter is one thing, but it ends up in a file
20 somewhere. Some kind of a plaque or physical
21 representation would I think be appropriate.

22
23 MR. VENT: I agree with Ray.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do agree with you,
26 Ray. Like a plaque or something to that effect. It
27 would be best if this memento was brought to our fall
28 meeting and all the RAC members could sign that and
29 then convey that to Robert.

30
31 MR. VENT: Maybe if we invited him to
32 the meeting or something.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He doesn't want to
35 attend meetings and he can't attend meetings. He's not
36 a RAC member anymore.

37
38 MR. VENT: Okay. Well, if he's in the
39 area and he wants to come in and receive the plaque, we
40 could invite him.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. That's
43 doubtful. So that covers the annual report. Is
44 everybody satisfied with that annual report for
45 submittal.

46
47 The Chair will entertain a motion to
48 adopt that annual report as amended.

49
50

1 MR. SIMON: So moved.

2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock and
6 seconded by Jenny.

7
8 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question is
11 called on the annual report. Those in favor of the
12 annual report as amended signify by saying aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

17
18 (No opposing votes)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at 5:50.
21 We're 50 minutes overrun today, but we've covered a lot
22 of ground, so it makes it a little bit lighter
23 tomorrow. We're going to recess the meeting until 9:00
24 a.m. tomorrow morning.

25
26 MR. ALEXIE: Yes.

27
28 MS. CLARK: A quick question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Shirley.

31
32 MS. CLARK: Does the Game Board have
33 evening sessions so we could have entertainment this
34 evening?

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They haven't been.

39
40 MS. CLARK: Oh, they haven't. Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They were breaking
43 last night at like 6:00 o'clock or something like that
44 and they were going -- they're tired. They start
45 making bad decisions when they go into overrun like
46 that. That's what they told me.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ____ through ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 21st day of February 2017 at Fairbanks, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 3rd day of March 2017.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18